

Blast Communication

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Updates the Use of Meningococcal B Vaccine

During its June 24-25 meeting, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to issue a Category B (individual clinical decision making) recommendation for the use of two serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccines in patients ages 16-23 for short-term protection against the disease, with a preference for administration between ages 16 and 18.

Previously, the ACIP had recommended the two MenB vaccines -- Pfizer's Trumenba, which is given as a three-dose series, and Novartis' (now GSK) Bexsero, which is given as a two-dose series -- only for people ages 10 and older who are at increased risk for serogroup B meningococcal disease. High-risk groups include those with persistent complement component deficiencies, anatomic or functional asplenia, microbiologists working with serogroup B meningitis, and populations at risk because of outbreaks.

The FDA-approved indication for MenB vaccine is limited to those ages 10-25, but the ACIP saw no theoretical difference in calling for its use in older individuals and so broadened the recommendation.

These recommendations will become official when they are published in an upcoming edition of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

Update: Shortened Interval for Postvaccination Serologic Testing of Infants Born to Hepatitis B-Infected Mothers

The CDC published a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on October 9, 2015 recommending shortening the interval for post-vaccination serologic testing (PVT) of infants born to hepatitis B-infected mothers from age 9–18 months to age **9-12 months**. The recommendation to shorten the interval is a result of the discontinuation of the combination Hib/HepB vaccine (Comvax) and new data that show lower detectable levels of anti-HBs were associated with increased intervals between receipt of the last vaccine dose and post-vaccination serologic testing. The MMWR can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6439a6.htm?s_cid=mm6439a6_w.

For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or mchaney@gaaap.org