

Vaccines for Children Provider Updates – May 15, 2015

Vaccine Updates

HPV - Gardasil® 9:

Now shipping. Providers must select this vaccine as their HPV preference if they wish to no longer receive HPV 4 doses.

Single Dose Vaccines Available:

Providers may order the following vaccines in increments of 1 dose as needed – TD, MenHibrix, and Pneumovax 23. Order requests are subject to approval by VFC staff.

Additional Vaccine

Requests: During the back to school rush, VFC will allow providers to request up to 100 doses over the amount listed in the doses presumed needed column of the monthly report. Calculations are based on reported usage and inventory data. Requests beyond the additional 100 dose allowance require a written justification explaining the increased need and approval by the Deputy Director or VFC Coordinator.

Program Updates

Manage Orders is making a move to your standard login!!

As of Monday, May 18, providers will no longer need to use their separate manage orders login to place vaccine orders online. Please visit page 3 of this update for more information on this final transition phase; which eliminates the need for the additional manage orders login.

Important Dates to Remember

- Monday, May 25 - State offices closed in observance of Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 26 – Public/county sites Annual Re-certification forms due
- Monday, June 1 – Private provider sites Annual Re-certification forms due. *Refer to email announcements sent to confirm your clinic's due date.
- Friday, July 3 – State offices closed in observance of Independence Day

HPV Quarterly Report

Three vaccinations are routinely recommended for boys and girls aged 11-12 years: human papillomavirus (HPV), tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap), and meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccinations. Nationally, HPV vaccination coverage lags behind other adolescent vaccination coverage estimates, and remains far below Healthy People 2020 targets of 80% coverage by 2020. Previous quarterly HPV vaccination reports have highlighted coverage estimates from the 2013 NIS-Teen survey, which monitors trends in adolescent vaccination coverage and progress toward Healthy People 2020 targets.

Georgia VFC would like to share these quarterly reports with our providers and stakeholders. This quarter's report includes HPV vaccine

ordering data for the first three months of 2015 (January 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015), but primarily focuses on the recent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for use of the 9-valent HPV vaccine (9vHPV). The previous quarter's report (October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014) gives a complete snapshot of HPV vaccine ordering trends during calendar year 2014, with a primary focus on the importance of a strong recommendation from clinicians. Both reports have been included as an attachment to this VFC Update. VFC will share future reports each quarter as an attachment to the VFC update upon release by the CDC.

Flu Season Pre-Book 2015-2016

The deadline for the 2015 VFC Influenza Pre-Book has passed. If you missed the deadline, you may submit your wait list request via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015VFCFLUWL>

The flu survey should only be completed by providers who did not submit a request prior to the February 16th deadline but wish to receive influenza vaccines for this upcoming season. Submissions to this survey will be added to our 2015-2016 VFC Influenza Vaccine Wait List.

Fulfillment of wait listed requests will begin after all pre-booked requests have been satisfied or supply for 100% of pre-booked requests has been secured. Wait Listed requests will be fulfilled according to vaccine availability. VFC cannot guarantee 100% fulfillment of all wait listed requests. Please be sure to use previous year's doses administered and billing data to determine vaccine estimates you will need to vaccinate your VFC and PeachCare eligible children 0 through 18 years of age during the upcoming flu season

Annual Re-certification: Reporting Vaccine Eligibility Categories

To assist with completing the enrollment estimates portion of the Provider Profile required for annual recertification, providers who use GRITS to manage inventory are unable to run reports by eligibility **and** age using their EMR system may use the following two reports from GRITS:

- (1) Request Vaccine Usage: provides doses by age range
- (2) Request Doses Administered: provides doses administered data by eligibility criteria

Tips to Remember:

- For both reports, use the date range January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014.
- The Doses Administered by Eligibility report will provide an overview of the eligibility categories your office sees most often.
- The Vaccine Usage report will require a bit of math to combine age groups for the purpose of determining categories specific to the profile form.
- Doses administered to PeachCare kids should be reported in the Non-VFC/CHIP section of the profile. Although these kids are not eligible for the federal VFC Program, we continue to supply doses from separate funding provided specifically for this category.

GRITS Online Manage Orders Updates

VFC is now entering Phase 6, the final phase in our transition to online ordering. On Monday, May 18, the manage orders function will move from its separate login to your standard GRITS login.

As of Monday, any staff person with access to your standard GRITS login will be able to place vaccine orders by selecting manage orders from the blue menu panel. Please be sure to share instructions, tips and Frequently Asked questions with staff members who may serve as a backup to the primary person responsible for placing orders.

Please note, providers who did not request a manage orders login by the deadline have been suspended and orders placed for those sites will be denied. These suspended sites will be contacted via fax and will be required to contact VFC to update contact information and complete any additional steps required to return to active status prior to resuming vaccine shipments.

Tips and Reminders:

- **All providers must submit vaccine orders online including providers submitting monthly reports using the Excel form.**
- When placing orders online, be sure to order enough vaccine to restore your stock to a 3 month supply
- After shipments are received, remember to accept the vaccine transfers which will automatically update your inventory counts. Do not manually enter your inventory into GRITS (for GRITS reporters only).
- Check your order status frequently and contact VFC if a status remains stuck in one phase longer than the time frames listed below.
- Breakdown of order statuses:
 - Pending = needs review and approval by VFC. Order can be changed by the site. Orders should be in this pending state for no more than 3 days.
 - In Progress = Order is being reviewed by VFC and no changes can be made by the site. If an order is 'In Progress' for more than 1 day, follow up with VFC to determine the issue.
 - Denied = Entire order denied by VFC, contact the program to resolve the issue preventing approval of the order.
 - Approved = Order reviewed and approved by VFC, should transition to the next phase in 1 day or less
 - Sent to CDC/Distributor = Order data uploaded to VFC's vaccine management database VTckS for processing and fulfillment by McKesson. Orders should remain in this status for approximately 4-5 days while orders is packed and shipped from McKesson.
 - Partially Fulfilled = a portion of the order has delivered and transfer data is pending acceptance
 - Fulfilled = The complete order has been delivered and transfer data is pending acceptance
 - Accepted = Order complete, shipment received, transfers accepted and doses have been added to the provider's current inventory count (accepting transfers to update inventory counts is only available to providers using GRITS to manage their inventory and submit monthly reports).
- Refresher training or training for new staff can be found here:
https://www.gritstest.state.ga.us/docs/ManageOrders_20FEB_2014_Final_Copy.htm

VFC Basics – Important Reminders

STORE VFC vaccines according to current CDC guidelines. VFC strongly recommends that frozen vaccines be stored in a pharmaceutical grade, commercial grade, or stand-alone unit. GA VFC will require providers currently using combination units to store frozen vaccines to adhere to this guideline as of **January 1, 2016**. More information on recommended frozen vaccine storage can be found in the CDC's Storage and Handling Toolkit by clicking on the following link <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>

RECORD temperatures a minimum of twice per day using an NIST or ASTM certified thermometer with a current certificate of calibration. Refrigerator temperatures should remain between 35- 46° Fahrenheit and 2°-8° Celsius. Freezer temperatures should remain between 5° or colder Fahrenheit and -15° or colder Celsius. Temperature excursions outside of the required range should be reported to VFC immediately!

VERIFY AND DOCUMENT eligibility status for each patient during each immunization encounter. Be sure to differentiate between Medicaid and PeachCare CMO (Amerigroup, Peach State and WellCare). The two should be reported separately on the GRITS and the manual Excel reporting form.

REPORT doses administered to Medicaid patients separately from doses administered to PeachCare for Kids® patients. Doses administered to PeachCare for Kids® patients should be reported in the PeachCare column of the manual report.

REPORT usage, inventory, and wastage monthly via GRITS. Monthly reports are used to replenish vaccine shipments based on usage and inventory totals. Replenishment totals are based on a 3 month storage cushion and is calculated as follows:

Usage x 3 months – Inventory = # of doses to ship/doses presumed needed

~~NEW FOR 2015~~ **SUBMIT** orders online using the new GRITS Manage Orders function. Contact VFC to receive log in credentials if access has not been granted.

REVIEW GRITS monthly reports for errors presented as doses listed in the "Insured/Ineligible" column and doses listed as (-) or (over) on the Vaccine Accountability Statement. Submit a copy of the report and a written explanation of errors by fax or email to avoid shipping delays.

REPORT short dated vaccines 90 days prior to expiration. Per the VFC Loss Policy, providers are required to report expiring vaccines 90 days prior to expiration.

Contact Us

Georgia Vaccines for Children Program

2 Peachtree Street, NW 13-276

Atlanta, GA 30303-3142

(404) 657-5013 phone

(800) 848-3868 toll free phone

(404) 657-5736 fax

(800) 372-3627 toll free fax

DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov

<http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children-program>

RETURN wasted and/or expired doses to McKesson within 6 months of expiration. VFC vaccine should not be discarded. Exemptions to this rule include expired/wasted multi-dose vials or expired/wasted syringes. Both however must be reported monthly.

RECORD date, vaccine manufacturer, trade name, lot number and VIS publication date in the patient records for every vaccine administered.

MAINTAIN a completed Vaccine Emergency/Disaster Recovery Plan in an accessible location in the event of refrigerator/freezer malfunctions, natural disasters, etc.

NOTIFY VFC of changes in staff, vacation, power outages, address change, etc. Physicians and nursing staff signed to the provider agreement are responsible for notifying VFC of any changes that may affect vaccine shipments.

REVIEW CDC guidelines for Storage and Handling and set protocols in place to ensure effectiveness of vaccine administered to patients.