

## Vaccines for Children Provider Updates – September 16, 2015

### **Vaccine Updates**

#### **Recombinax® Syringes:**

One back order for approximately 2 weeks. Syringe preferences have been disabled until the vaccine becomes available. Alternate choice is the vial presentation.

#### **HPV - Gardasil ®9:**

Providers receiving both presentations while transitioning will be allowed to select one HPV presentation as a preference and contact VFC to modify the order to add the additional presentation.

#### **Trumenba® &**

**Bexsero®:** Menig B doses available for administration to patients 16-18.

**TD, MenHibrix, and Pneumovax 23.** Can be ordered in 1 dose increments. Orders subject to approval by VFC.

#### **Additional Vaccine**

**Requests:** VFC will allow providers to request up to 30 doses over the amount listed as “doses needed” on the order screen. Requests over this allowance requires approval.

### **Flu Season 2015 -2016 Frequently Asked Questions**

**Where’s my flu order?** *Flu orders will be entered as doses become available to VFC for shipping from CDC. VFC cannot approximate the arrival of your order until it has actually been entered. Orders may arrive in smaller increments until the full amount booked is available for fulfillment.*

**When will I receive a shipment?** *If you pre-booked back in February, then you should expect to receive your shipment between now and through the end of September. Wait list providers and requests received after August 1 may begin to receive shipments in October.*

**What does pre-booked mean?** *Each year providers receive a link via Survey Monkey which provides them the opportunity to book flu doses for the upcoming season. Flu pre-books take place during February and are immediately followed by a wait list period that last through the summer.*

**I am on the wait list, how long should I wait to book flu clinics?** *We suggest that you do not book flu clinics until you have actually received your flu doses.*

### **Important Dates to Remember**

Holiday Shipping Blackout: Orders will not be shipped on the following days:

Veteran’s Day Nov 11 – Friday Nov 13

Thanksgiving Blackout: Friday November 20 – Friday November 27

### **Important Vaccine Return Update**

Providers are advised to check email frequently when waiting on expired or wasted vaccine return invoices and shipping labels. If your site has not received a follow up within 2 weeks from submitting your report, contact Christy Banks, Vaccine Logistics Associate by calling her at 404-651-7305. Additional information regarding the return process and related activities can be found in the attached Centralized Distribution Information and Instruction Sheet.

### **Annual Re-certification: Many providers missing backup thermometers**

Several providers submitted annual re-certification documents missing information regarding the calibration date of at least one backup thermometer. As of January 1, 2015, VFC providers are required to store a backup thermometer to be used in place of the primary thermometer while it is sent out for re-calibration or in the event that the primary thermometer malfunctions. Providers missing backup thermometer calibration dates, those who reported dates that have expired, and providers missing other important data will be notified via email. Please respond to all VFC email requests promptly to avoid possible suspension of vaccine shipments.

### **The Back to School Rush is over! – Please verify doses to ship amounts and adjust as needed**

As a reminder, VFC calculates vaccine replenishment or doses needed using the following formula: Doses administered during the last reporting period multiplied by 3 (month's provider should store to ensure adequate vaccine supply) minus the number of doses reported as current inventory so,

Doses administered X 3 - # of doses reported as inventory = number of doses to ship.

Due to the Back to School vaccine rush, many provider offices will report higher than normal doses administered data which will result in a large number of doses reported as needed to replenish stock. Please consider the decrease in patient visits that may occur in the upcoming months and adjust your order to meet your current needs while maintaining a supply cushion of 3 months. During the next few months as your orders adjust to reflect your usage during non-rush periods, providers must continue to report and have the option to submit a zero dose order to avoid receiving doses over your 3 month threshold. For more information or assistance with adjusting your inventory, feel free to call the VFC office to speak with your assigned VFC Customer Service Representative at 404-657-5013 or 800-848-3868.

### **Vaccine order status now available in GRITS!**

Did you know that you can check your order status in GRITS? To assist with order updates, GRITS now includes order status updates.

- **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, check your email for a follow up request and/or contact VFC to determine the issue.
- **Denied** = entire order denied by VFC. View the comments section for the denial reason.
- **Approved** = Order 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, VTrckS 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 Shipped** = a portion of the order has delivered and transfer data is pending acceptance on the manage transfers screen. (See Frequently Asked Questions document for more information)
- **Fulfilled** = All items ordered have been delivered and transfer data is pending acceptance.
- **Accepted** = Order complete, shipment received, and for GRITS reporters, transfers accepted and doses have been added to the provider's current inventory count.

### **Flu Season Pre-Book 2015-2016 Ends, September 22, 2015**

*The deadline to request flu doses has been extended to Tuesday, September 22.* New providers and providers who missed the spring online pre-book as well as both the primary and secondary wait lists must submit requests ASAP. VFC will not be able to honor requests for flu doses beyond this final deadline. Send requests to [DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov](mailto:DPH-gavfc@dph.ga.gov) and be sure to include your VFC PIN#, name of contact, and the number of doses needed for .25, .5, and FluMist. Please note, all pre-booked and wait list doses will be shipped prior to the release of doses for requests made after the closing of the wait list. Providers submitting request beyond August 1 should not expect to receive shipments until October.

### **Flu Season 2015-2016 Brand, Presentation and CPT Codes**

<b>CPT</b>	<b>NDC</b>	<b>Brand</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>VFC Age Group</b>
90685	49281-0515-25	Fluzone® - Quad	Single Dose Syringe	6-35 months
90686	49281-0415-10	Fluzone® - Quad	Single Dose Vial	3-18 years
90686	49281-0415-50	Fluzone® - Quad	Single Dose Syringe	3-18 years
90657/90658*	49281-0396-15	Fluzone® - Tri	Multidose Vial	6 months – 18 years
90687/90688*	49281-0623-15	Fluzone® - Quad	Multidose Vial	6 months – 18 years
90686	58160-0903-52	Fluarix® - Quad	Single Dose Syringe	3-18 years
90688	19515-0898-11	FluLaval® - Quad	Multidose Vial	3-18 years
90672	66019-0302-10	FluMist® - Quad	Intranasal Sprayer	2-18 years

*\*Our first FluMist allocation has been received and doses will begin to arrive in provider offices this week.*

## 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 household 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>

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

**RECORD** temperatures a minimum of twice per day using a 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 GRITS as covered by Amerigroup, Peach State or WellCare.

**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. As of May 18, 2015 VFC will no longer automatically ship doses listed on column J of the Vaccine Accountability Statement.

**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](mailto: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.