



Memorandum

TO: Directors, Health Service Regions
Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
Directors, Local Health Departments

THRU: Casey S. Blass, Director
Disease Prevention and Intervention Section

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager
Immunization Branch

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager
Vaccine Services Group

DATE: July 1, 2005

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program: Pneumococcal and Hepatitis A Vaccine Expansion

Governor Rick Perry and the 79th Texas Legislature have appropriated funds to expand the availability of pneumococcal and hepatitis A vaccines through the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program. In addition to this expansion, children attending child-care and pre-kindergarten programs will be required to be vaccinated against invasive pneumococcal and hepatitis A diseases. If children do not have at least the first doses of these vaccines by September 1, 2005, they may be excluded from child-care and pre-kindergarten program attendance. A copy of the notification sent to child-care facilities and school districts is attached. The TVFC implementation policies and timelines follow.

Hepatitis A Vaccine

Effective August 1, 2005, hepatitis A vaccine will be a routinely recommended vaccine for all children in Texas two years through 18 years of age. Beginning with July's vaccine orders, providers in all Texas counties may order the vaccine through the TVFC. During the month of August, special emphasis should be given to children who attend child-care or pre-kindergarten programs.

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7)

Currently, only federal VFC-eligible children may receive PCV7 through the TVFC; underinsured children must be referred to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinics (RHC) to receive this vaccine. Effective August 1, 2005, all TVFC-eligible children who are two months through fifty-nine months of age and who attend child-care or pre-kindergarten programs may receive PCV7 from any provider participating in the TVFC and do not need to be referred to a FQHC or RHC. TVFC physicians who serve children attending child-care facilities should assess their need and

order PCV7 vaccine on July orders in

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preparation for the child-care and pre-kindergarten requirements.

Effective September 1, 2005, the eligibility system for PCV7 will be simplified and all underinsured children statewide who are two months through fifty-nine months of age may begin receiving PCV7 at any clinic enrolled in the TVFC. Underinsured children will no longer need to be referred to a FQHC or RHC for this vaccine.

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV23)

The pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV23) vaccine is available through the TVFC program only for high-risk children who are two years through 18 years of age. This vaccine comes in five-dose vials and may be ordered with regular monthly orders using the Biological Order Form (C-68). High-risk children include:

- Children with functional or anatomic asplenia.
- Chronic illnesses (diabetes mellitus, CSF leak, or chronic cardiovascular disease, chronic pulmonary disease excluding asthma).
- Immunocompromising conditions (leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkins disease, multiple myeloma, malignancies, chronic renal failure, nephrotic syndrome, organ or bone marrow transplant, immunocompromising medications, or HIV infection).

For dosing and scheduling of PCV7 and PPV23, please refer to manufacturer package inserts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also published recommendations for usage of both PCV7 and PPV23 for high-risk children. The report is available at the internet address <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00047135.htm>.

The Medicaid billing code (CPT) for each vaccine is as follows:

- Hepatitis A 90633.
- PCV7 90669.
- PPV23 90732.

For additional questions regarding Medicaid billing, please contact the Texas Medicaid and Health Care Partnership (TMHP) at (800) 925-9126. If you have questions or need additional information regarding the TVFC program, please contact your Health Service Regional office.

Attachment