



Memorandum

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

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager 
Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager 
Immunization Branch

DATE: May 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program: Choosing Vaccines for the TVFC and Adult Safety Net Programs

In a memo dated May 5, 2010, providers were notified about a law (81st Legislature, House Bill 448) which allows providers the opportunity to select vaccine brands and presentations (vials/syringes) for the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) and Adult Safety Net programs. A survey is now available online that includes all vaccines currently available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pediatric contract and the Adult Safety Net approved list.

Effective immediately and through July 31, 2010, providers should go online and make their vaccine choices. The choices will become effective on September 1, 2010. The survey is located at <http://TVFCchoice.questionpro.com>. The provider who signed the TVFC Enrollment Form must be consulted and in agreement with vaccine choices. A copy of the survey instructions is attached.

Default Vaccines

All providers are strongly encouraged to select their preferred vaccines. In the event that a provider elects not to choose vaccines, a set of default vaccines has been assigned to each region of the state, and will be applied to providers who have not selected vaccines by July 31st. A pediatric and adult vaccine default list is attached.

Adult Safety Net

The Adult Safety Net program is available to only local health departments, state health service regions, and for a limited time as part of a federal hepatitis B initiative, to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and State-contracted Family Planning Clinics (FPC). If an FQHC or contracted FPC believes they are eligible and have not been contacted, please call your local or regional representative for information.

Things to Consider When Making Choices

Combination vs. single antigen vaccines:

- Combination vaccines must be ordered in conjunction with their companion vaccines. For example if you choose to use:
 - o Pediarix (DTaP-HepB-IPV) you will need to order single antigen Hib
 - o Pentacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib) you will need to order single antigen Hepatitis B

Supplies

- If you choose pre-filled syringes, you must purchase needles.
- If you choose vials, you must purchase syringes.

Vaccine Schedules and prices

- Vaccine schedules by brand may vary. For example, one brand may offer a three-dose primary series, while another brand offers a two-dose primary series. Providers should consider how the schedule will affect patient/clinic vaccine practices.
- Vaccine prices vary by brand and presentation. Since the TVFC and Adult Safety Net programs are publically funded, providers may wish to consider vaccine cost when making a choice.
- A Vaccine Choice Information List that includes both pediatric and adult vaccines is attached to this memo that includes vaccine brand/presentation, manufacturer, cost per dose, schedule, and links to various manufacturers' websites where additional product information can be found.

Storage Capacity Validation

- Based on the selected vaccine brands/presentations and the maximum stock level (MSL) for each vaccine, you will need to verify that you have adequate refrigerator/freezer capacity to properly store the vaccines.
- Dose per dose, syringes take up more space than vials.
- Storing vaccines directly under the vent coming from the freezer could have two unintended results: freezing the vaccine directly under the vent; and restricting cold air flow to the rest of the unit. Leave air space directly under the freezer vent, and between products to allow for proper air circulation.
- Review Vaccine Storage and Handling guidelines on page 13 of the TVFC provider manual.
- A tool to assist with determining adequate storage is available online at www.immunizetexas.com.
 - o Select "Providers"
 - o Click on Vaccine Choice Icon with the blocks
 - o Scroll down to Provider Information
 - o Click on Storage Calculation Tool and Instructions

Vaccine Choice Website

All documents and tools associated with provider vaccine choices are located on our new choice web page. This includes survey instructions, default vaccine lists, Vaccine Choice Information Lists, and storage calculation tool. To access the site, go to: www.immunizetexas.com

- o Select "Providers"
- o Click on Vaccine Choice Icon with the blocks

If you have questions on vaccines or vaccine schedules, please contact the appropriate manufacturer or reference the links provided on the attached Vaccine Choice Information List. To access a Vaccine Manufacturers Contact Information page with phone numbers and a link to manufacturers' web pages, go to: www.immunizetexas.com

- o Select "Providers"
- o Click on Vaccine Choice Icon with the blocks
- o Scroll down to Other Resources

Other questions may be directed to local health department or health service region representatives.

Attachments:

Survey Instructions
Default Vaccine Lists by Region
Vaccine Choice Information List