



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

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager 
Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager 
Immunization Branch

DATE: February 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program: Adult Safety Net MCV4 Vaccine Extension Ends February 15, 2012

Memo Distribution: This memo is intended for Local Health Departments, Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Service Regions, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Family Planning Clinics only; please do not disseminate to other private providers.

The temporary extension of the meningococcal vaccine in the Adult Safety Net (ASN) program will end on February 15, 2012. This extension allowed high risk adults and students presenting for a MCV4 vaccine to receive the vaccine through the ASN program.

After February 15, 2012, the MCV4 vaccine will no longer be available for order through the ASN program.

The Immunization Branch will pursue a variety of avenues to help ensure that first-time college students have received meningococcal vaccination, including promoting a booster dose for the 16-18 year old cohort, working with vaccine manufacturers to develop and promote patient assistance programs, and continued coordination with the Higher Education Coordinating Board. DSHS is also pursuing a one-time funding opportunity from the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) to allow local health departments to purchase limited quantities of meningococcal vaccine.

Providers are encouraged to maintain a supply of privately purchased MCV4 vaccine, and to re-check insurance coverage for patients. Some elements of health care reform are beginning to be implemented in many health plans including coverage of preventive services without copays or deductibles. ASN Providers with inventory of state-supplied MCV4 vaccine may continue to offer the vaccine until supplies are depleted to adults with the following risk categories:

1. Medical indications: uninsured adults with anatomic or functional asplenia or terminal complement component deficiencies.
2. Revaccination after 5 years might be indicated for uninsured adults previously vaccinated with MPSV4 who remain at high risk for infection.
3. Uninsured persons who travel to or live in countries in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic.
4. Other: any college student regardless of insurance status presenting at an Adult Safety Net site.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your health service region or TVFC consultant.