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SUBJECT 2015 Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules	BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue to Medical Assistance (MA) providers the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) 2015 Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules, United States, for persons under 19 years of age.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the MA Program who administer immunizations and provide services in the fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

As stated in 55 Pa.Code § 1241.42(2), the Department of Human Services (Department) is authorized to issue immunization guidelines based on recommendations of recognized medical organizations involved in children’s health care. To ensure that MA eligible children and adolescents are receiving immunizations that conform to nationally recognized standards, the Department is updating its immunization guidelines to conform to the attached Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years – United States, 2015, and the Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years Who Start Late or Who Are More Than 1 Month Behind – United States, 2015. The recommended immunization schedules for persons aged 0 through 18 years and the catch-up immunization schedule have been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

PROCEDURE:

Providers enrolled in the MA Program should use the attached immunization schedules. These immunization schedules are current with the changes in vaccine formulations and recommendations for the use of licensed vaccines. The changes to the 2015 Immunization

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
<http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

Schedule as stated in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Volume 64 as published February 6, 2015, found at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6404a5.htm?s_cid=mm6404a5_e include the following:

- Figure 1, "Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 18 Years":
 - Highlighted the recommendations for influenza vaccination for children; 1) for live attenuated influenza vaccine, which may only be administered beginning at age 2 years; and 2) for children aged 6 months through 8 years, who need 2 doses of influenza vaccine in the first year vaccinated, and in subsequent years only require 1 dose of vaccine. Therefore, the gold bar for live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) or inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV), 1 or 2 doses, extends from 2 through 8 years (midpoint of column for 7–10 years) and a new gold bar (1 dose) extends from 9 to 18 years to reflect these changes.
 - A purple bar was added for measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine for children aged 6–11 months, denoting the recommendation to vaccinate such children if they will travel or live abroad.
 - Pages 4 through 6 contain combined footnotes for each vaccine related to routine vaccination, catch-up vaccinations, and vaccination of persons with high-risk medical conditions or special circumstances.
- Standardized formatting is used for footnotes for each vaccine to reflect the number of vaccine doses in a particular series.
 - The diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine footnote has language added stating if the fourth dose DTaP vaccine was administered 4 months or more after the third dose, at an appropriate age, it can be counted as a valid dose, and need not be repeated after the recommended 6-month interval between doses 3 and 4.
 - The meningococcal conjugate vaccine footnote was revised to more clearly present recommendations for use of MenACWY-CRM, MenACWY-D, and Hib-MenCY-TT in children aged 2 months and older with anatomic or functional asplenia, or with persistent complement deficiencies.
 - The influenza vaccine footnote was updated to reflect revised contraindications for LAIV: LAIV should not be administered to some persons, including; 1) persons who have experienced severe allergic reactions to LAIV, any of its components, or to a previous dose of any other influenza vaccine; 2) children aged 2 through 17 years receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing products; 3) persons who are allergic to eggs; 4) pregnant women; 5) immunosuppressed persons; 6) children aged 2 through 4 years with asthma or who had wheezing in the past 12 months; and 7) persons who have taken influenza antiviral

- medications in the previous 48 hours. All other contraindications and precautions to use of LAIV are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6332.pdf>.
- The pneumococcal vaccine footnote was updated to provide clearer guidance for vaccination of persons with high-risk conditions:
 - Administer 1 dose of PCV13 if any incomplete schedule of 3 doses of PCV (PCV7 and/or PCV13) was received previously.
 - Administer 2 doses of PCV13 at least 8 weeks apart if unvaccinated or any incomplete schedule of fewer than 3 doses of PCV (PCV7 and/or PCV13) was received previously.
 - Figure 2, Catch-Up Immunization Schedule:
 - *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, and tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap), and varicella vaccine catch-up schedules were updated to provide more clarity. Minimum ages were noted as "not-applicable" for children aged 7 years and older for hepatitis A and B, polio, meningococcal, MMR, and varicella vaccines.

Providers should carefully review the 2015 schedules for detailed information on the appropriate dosages and ages for the administration of vaccines, and replace their current immunization schedule with the attached immunization schedules.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act requires that health-care providers provide parents or patients with copies of Vaccine Information Statements before administering each dose of the vaccines listed in the schedule. Additional information is available from state health departments and from the CDC at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html>.

OBSOLETE BULLETIN:

This bulletin supersedes MA Bulletin 99-14-07, issued April 1, 2014.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years - United States, 2015
- Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years Who Start Late or Who Are More Than 1 Month Behind - United States, 2015