



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

NUMBER: 01-04-04,
08-04-04, 09-04-06,
31-04-10, 33-04-02

ISSUE DATE:
October 8, 2004

EFFECTIVE DATE:
January 1, 2004

SUBJECT: 2004 Recommended Childhood & Adolescent
Immunization Schedule

BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Feinberg".

David S. Feinberg
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, July - December 2004, for Medical Assistance (MA) recipients under 19 years of age served by MA enrolled providers. This bulletin supercedes MA Bulletins 01-03-04, 10-03-01, 11-03-01, 17-03-01, 26-03-01, and 49-03-02 issued March 31, 2003.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to providers enrolled in the MA Program who are authorized to administer immunizations in either the Fee-for-Service (FFS) or Managed Care Organization (MCO) delivery systems.

BACKGROUND:

On January 5, 2004, the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, January - June 2004 was published. At that time, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) considered joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) in recommending universal influenza immunization of all children 6 to 23 months of age, as well as, routine influenza immunization of all household contact and out-of-home caregivers of children younger than 24 months. The AAP had previously encouraged such immunizations, but had not yet taken the step of formally recommending them. A mid-year schedule would be released with the new recommendations when the AAP formally recommended this change.

On April 30, 2004, the AAP joined the ACIP and the AAFP in formally recommending the universal influenza immunization of all children 6 to 23 months of age. As the Department of Public Welfare (Department) is authorized to issue immunization guidelines based on recommendations of recognized medical organizations involved in children's healthcare, as stated in 55 Pa.Code § 1241.42 (2), the Department is updating its immunization guidelines to conform with the attached Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, July - December 2004, as approved by the ACIP, the AAP and the AAFP. For informational purposes only, the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, January - June 2004 is also attached.

PROCEDURE:

MA enrolled providers in both the FFS and MCO delivery systems should use the attached Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, July - December 2004. The most significant changes from the 2003 Immunization Schedule are:

- Specification of the following minimum ages for the final dose in the vaccine series:
 - Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP), equal to or greater than 4 years of age;
 - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine, equal to or greater than 12 months of age;
 - Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, equal to or greater than 12 months of age; and,
 - Hepatitis B (third or fourth dose), equal to or greater than 24 weeks of age.
- The diphtheria and tetanus toxoids (Td booster) is recommended to be given at 11 to 12 years of age as opposed to 11 to 18 years of age.
- The range of recommendations for influenza vaccine for children aged 6-23 months has been moved above the dotted red line, indicating that these children should be vaccinated annually.
- The updated influenza vaccine footnote recommends that:
 - Healthy children aged 6-23 months and close contacts of healthy children aged 0-23 months receive influenza vaccine because children in this age group are at a substantially increased risk for influenza related hospitalizations.
 - Healthcare workers and other persons (including household members) in close contact with persons in groups at high risk be vaccinated annually.
 - For healthy persons age 5 to 49 years, the intranasally administered live-attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) is an acceptable alternative to the intramuscular trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV). Children receiving TIV should be administered a dosage appropriate for their age (0.25 mL if age 6 to 35 months or 0.5 mL if age is equal to or greater than 3 years). Children 8 years of age or younger who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time should receive 2 doses (separated by at least 4 weeks for TIV and at least 6 weeks for LAIV).
- Statement added to footnotes:

Clinically significant adverse events that follow immunization should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Guidance about how to obtain and complete a VAERS form can be obtained on the Internet at: <http://www.vaers.org/> or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Providers should carefully review the schedule for detailed information on the appropriate dosages and ages for the administration of vaccines, and replace their current immunization schedule with the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, July - December 2004.

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule - United States, January – June 2004**
- **Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule - United States, July – December 2004**

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 website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.