



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

NUMBER:01-03-04, 10-03-01, 11-03-01, 17-03-01, 26-03-01, 49-03-02

ISSUE DATE:
March 31, 2003

EFFECTIVE DATE:
January 1, 2003

SUBJECT: 2003 Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule

BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole W. Rebert".

Carole W. Rebert
Official-In-Charge
Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2003, for Medical Assistance (M A) recipients under 19 years of age served by M A enrolled providers. This bulletin supersedes M A Bulletins 01-02-12, 10-02-03, 11-02-05, 17-02-06, 26-02-03, and 49-02-05 issued November 18, 2002.

SCOPE:

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

BACKGROUND:

As stated in 55 P a.Code § 1241.42(2), the Department of Public Welfare (Department) is authorized to issue immunization guidelines based on recommendations of recognized medical organizations involved in children's health care. To assure that M A eligible children are receiving immunizations that conform to nationally recognized standards, the Department is updating its immunization guidelines to conform with the attached Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2003, approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

PROCEDURE:

M A enrolled providers in both the FFS and MCO delivery systems should begin using the attached Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2003. While no major changes have been made regarding specific vaccines, providers should note that the age range for administering tetanus and diphtheria toxoids has increased from 11 through 15 years to 11 through 18 years of age.

The Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, United States, 2003:

- Continues to encourage the routine use of hepatitis B vaccine for all infants before hospital discharge to:

1. Safeguard against maternal hepatitis B testing errors and test reporting failures;
2. Protect neonates discharged to households in which hepatitis B chronic carriers other than the mother may reside; and,
3. Enhance the completion of the childhood immunization series.

- Recommends the second dose of hepatitis B at age one through two months for infants born to mothers whose HbsAg (hepatitis B surface antigen) status is unknown; the last dose in the series should not be administered before age six months.
- Suggests that children and adolescents in selected states, regions, and high-risk groups who have not been immunized against hepatitis A can begin the vaccination during any visit. The two doses of hepatitis A should be administered at least six months apart.
- Begins to focus on the expansion of routine influenza immunization for pediatric populations to reflect the shift toward immunization of all children, including healthy children, between 6 and 24 months of age. Children in this age group are at a substantially increased risk for influenza-related hospitalization.

Providers should carefully review the back of 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, 2003.

ATTACHMENT:

- Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule— United States, 2003

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.