



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE

August 18, 2006

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2006

NUMBER

*SEE BELOW

SUBJECT

Hepatitis A Vaccine

BY


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Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers that two hepatitis A vaccines are now being supplied by the Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Effective March 10, 2006, HAVRIX® and VAQTA™, two licensed pediatric formulations of hepatitis A vaccine that are indicated for the vaccination of children who are 12 months through 18 years of age, were added to the list of vaccines approved for the VFC Program.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to providers who are authorized to administer immunizations to Medical Assistance (MA) recipients in the Fee-for-Service delivery system. Providers rendering services to MA recipients under the MA managed care delivery system should address any coding or rate-related questions to the appropriate managed care organization (MCO).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Hepatitis A can affect anyone, and in young children, it is often an undetectable infection. Children have been among the highest risk group for hepatitis A and often unknowingly transmit the disease to other children and family members. Once contracted, hepatitis A can have serious consequence.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently lowered the age indication for HAVRIX® and VAQTA™, (two hepatitis A vaccines) from two years to twelve months. Subsequently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that all children should receive the hepatitis A vaccine at one year of age (i.e., 12 – 23 months). For the complete ACIP recommendations, please log onto the CDC website at:

* 01-06-10, 08-06-14, 09-06-12, 31-06-19, 33-06-05

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5507a1.htm>.

PROCEDURE:

The Department of Public Welfare (Department) currently covers hepatitis A vaccines, including HAVRIX® and VAQTA™, for MA-eligible children and adults consistent with the indicated use of the vaccines as licensed by the FDA and current ACIP recommendations. Although these vaccines can now be ordered through the VFC Program for VFC-eligible adolescents from 12 months through 18 years of age, the MA Program will cover HAVRIX® and VAQTA™, until August 31, 2006, to allow providers sufficient time to receive them from the VFC. The MA Program will continue to cover other hepatitis A vaccines indicated for MA-eligible individuals 19 years of age or older.

Effective September 1, 2006, the MA Program will reimburse VFC-enrolled providers for the administration of HAVRIX® and VAQTA™ for MA-eligible children consistent with the indicated use of these vaccines as licensed by the FDA and current ACIP recommendations. Providers may bill the Department for the administration of HAVRIX® and VAQTA™, by using CPT code 90633. The MA fee for the administration of these vaccines is \$10.00 per administration. Providers participating in an MA MCO network must abide by payment arrangements as stated in their individual contract.