North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women's & Children's Health Section
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Michael F. Easley, Governor   Dempsey Benton, Secretary

December 19, 2007

Memorandum
To: Local Health Directors
          Local Health Department Nursing Supervisors
          Family Planning & Reproductive Health Coordinators

From: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head
          Immunization Branch

          Joe Holliday, MD, MPH, Head
          Women's Health Branch

Re: Expansion of State Supplied Twinrix® Vaccine to Family Planning Clinics

The purpose of this memo is to request that local health departments (LHD) offer Twinrix® (hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination) vaccine to high risk males and females receiving Family Planning Services within local health departments starting February 4, 2008. Some LHDs already offer Twinrix® vaccine to eligible clients. By expanding the availability of state-supplied Twinrix® all LHDs are encouraged to offer Twinrix® vaccine to unvaccinated high risk adults in family planning clinics in addition to STD and other clinics. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's national strategy to eliminate transmission of hepatitis A and B infection includes vaccination of unvaccinated adults at risk of exposure.

Twinrix®, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline, is a hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine for use in persons 18 years of age and older. Twinrix® is administered in a three dose series at 0, 1, and 6 months. Appropriate spacing of doses must be maintained to assure long-term protection. The first and second doses should be separated by at least 4 weeks, and the second and third doses should be separated by at least 5 months. State-supplied hepatitis A and B combination vaccine may NOT be used for the accelerated, 4-dose, series.

The state supplied hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine is packaged as five single dose safety Tip Lock syringes without needles. You will need to purchase needles for use with this product.

Eligibility
State-supplied Twinrix® (hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination) vaccine is available only for patients seen in local health departments. High risk individuals eligible for state supplied Twinrix® vaccine are defined as patients 18 years of age or older who present to the local health department in any clinic with any of the following risk factors:
- Men who have sex with men,
- IV drug users,
- Persons with multiple sex partners,

- Any person who has been incarcerated,
- Persons who are hepatitis C or HIV positive,
- Persons seeking treatment for an STD,
- Persons with chronic liver disease, including persons with chronic HBV/HCV infection who have evidence of chronic liver disease,
- *New eligibility criteria*: Males and females receiving Family Planning Services who are not in a mutually monogamous relationship.

Cost
Patients, parents, or any third party insurance company (including Medicaid, and all other third party insurance companies) cannot be charged for the cost of state-supplied vaccines which you receive at no cost, including the hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine. An administration fee can be charged to Medicaid and other third party insurers. However, patients may not be charged an administration fee.

Ordering
To order state supplied hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine, please coordinate all vaccine orders with your agency's childhood immunization nurse to avoid over ordering and to reduce the state's shipping costs. Vaccine orders may be placed after January 4, 2008.

All local health departments administering hepatitis A and hepatitis B combination vaccine must document the doses administered directly into NCIR (North Carolina Immunization Registry). For further information, please contact your Regional Immunization Nurse or the Immunization Branch central office at 919-707-5550.

CC:	RINs/RICs	SMT	CO Staff	Ann Nance	Peter Graber	Joy Reed	Evelyn Foust
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