



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
 Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section
 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1917
 Tel 919-707-5550 • Fax 919-870-4824

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Dempsey Benton, Secretary

February 1, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) Participants

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

SUBJECT: Expanded Recommendations for Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4) to Include Children Two through 10 Years of Age

The purpose of this memo is to inform you that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recently expanded its recommendations for the use of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, MCV4 (Menactra®). The expanded recommendations are for children two through 10 years of age who are at increased risk for invasive meningococcal disease.

According to recent ACIP recommendations, MCV4 is preferable to meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine, MSPV4 (Menomune®) for children two through 10 years of age who are at increased risk for meningococcal disease. These children include:

- Those who have traveled to, or are residents of, countries in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic;
- Those who have terminal complement component deficiencies, and
- Those who have anatomic or functional asplenia.

Additionally, MCV4 is preferred to MSPV4 for use among children two through 10 years of age for control of meningococcal disease outbreaks. For the complete revised recommendations for children two through 10 years of age, go to:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5648a4.htm?s_cid=mm5648a4_e

Recommendations for use of MCV4 in persons 11 through 55 years of age, including a recommendation for routine vaccination with MCV4 of persons 11 through 18 years of age, have been published previously and remain unchanged. As with other state-supplied vaccines, MCV4 may be administered to all UCVDP participants who are underinsured, by any UCVDP provider.

Based on these recommendations, the Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) will expand MCV4 coverage criteria effective immediately. UCVDP will provide MCV4 for children two through 10 years of age who fall into the risk groups outlined above, or for outbreak control, and for children 11 through 18 years of age for routine vaccination. Children two through 18 receiving state-supplied MCV4 must also be in one of the VFC eligibility groups below:

- **Medicaid enrolled** – a child who is eligible or enrolled in the Medicaid program
- **Uninsured** – a child who has no medical insurance coverage
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native** – as defined by the Indian Health Service Act
- **Underinsured** – a child whose health insurance benefit plan does not fully cover the cost of vaccines (independent of co-pays, deductibles, and administration fees).

The North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) will be revised to reflect this change as well.

If you have questions, please call the Immunization Branch Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247 or your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant.

CC:	SMT Steve Shore Maelyn Powell	Regional Immunization Staff Peter Graber Ann Nance	Central Office Staff Joy Reed	Vaccine Manufacturers Terri Pennington
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