



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
 Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

February 26, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head/
 Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: URGENT: Changes in the North Carolina Immunization Program

The purpose of this memo is to update providers regarding additional changes to the North Carolina Immunization Program resulting from reductions in state appropriations for immunizations. NCIP staff have worked very closely with an advisory committee consisting of public and private doctors and nurses from across North Carolina to implement budget reductions mandated by the General Assembly in a way that minimizes harm to the children of North Carolina and disruption to health care providers. This work began prior to our memo dated October 30, 2009 announcing changes which became effective December 1, 2009, and has continued in an effort to address continuing budget shortfalls.

As a result, NCIP will only provide seasonal influenza vaccine to children who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program during the 2010-2011 season. However, this change will allow us to reinstate universal use of Tdap for pediatric patients and for persons entering North Carolina colleges and universities, as well as universal use of varicella vaccine, as indicated below, effective April 1, 2010. VFC-eligible children are those who are Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured, or underinsured.

Effective **April 1, 2010**, the following changes will be effective for vaccines provided through the NCIP:

- **Seasonal influenza vaccine (pediatric use)** for the 2010-2011 influenza season will be available **only** for VFC-eligible children 6 months through 18 years of age.
- **Tdap vaccine (pediatric use)** will be available universally (that is, for all children) 10 through 18 years of age.
- **Varicella vaccine** (two doses) will be available universally (that is, for all children) 12 months through 18 years of age.
- **Tdap vaccine (adult use)**—a single dose will be available for two populations:
 - Any person of any age entering a North Carolina college/university (where Tdap is required by NC Immunization Law) for the first time who has never received Tdap.
 - Post partum women seen at local health departments if no documentation of Tdap vaccine exists.
- **Coverage for all other vaccines, including adult use products, remains unchanged from the October 30, 2009 memo.**

Attached to this memo is an excerpt of the NCIP Coverage Criteria reflecting the four changes listed above. An updated version of the full NCIP Coverage Criteria will be available on-line soon at: www.immunizenc.com. We encourage all providers to print this document no later than April 1, 2010 and post it in your vaccination area.

Vaccine for administration to non-VFC eligible children seen in your practice must be maintained separately from state-supplied stock. Non-VFC children are defined as those who are **fully insured**, that is, the family’s insurance plan will cover vaccine administration after deductibles and co-payments are met. Privately purchased vaccine may also be added to the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) to ensure complete immunization records. If you have questions regarding how to add privately purchased vaccine into your inventory, please call the NCIR Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

The Immunization Branch has developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding changes made to the program since December 1, 2009. You can find these FAQs online at www.immunizenc.com/program_changes.htm. Look for hard copies of this resource to be mailed to your office in the coming weeks.

We appreciate all that you do to ensure the health of North Carolina’s children and adolescents, and regret any concern or confusion created by these changes.

For additional information, please contact the Immunization Branch at 919-707-5550.

Attachment

CC:	SMT	Steve Shore	Jessica Gerdes	Joy Reed	Central Office Staff	Evelyn Foust
	Terri Pennington	Maclyn Powell	Ann Nance	Lou Turner	Vaccine Manufacturers	
	Greg Griggs	Jeff Engel	Megan Davies	Steve Cline	Regional Immunization Staff	

**NORTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NCIP)
COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR ALL CHILDREN PRESENT IN NORTH CAROLINA
(Partial)**

Effective April 1, 2010

VACCINE	AGES COVERED	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NCIP VACCINE USAGE	All Children	VFC Only
Influenza Pediatric Use	≥ 6 months through 18 years	State-supplied seasonal influenza is available for children who are both eligible for the VFC program and are 6 months through 18 years of age.		X
Tdap Pediatric use	≥ 10 through 18 years	State-supplied Tdap is available for all children ≥ 10 through 18 years of age	X	
Varicella	≥ 12 months through 18 years	Two doses are available for all susceptible children through age 18.	X	
Tdap Adult use	Certain adults (19-64 years of age) may receive state-supplied Tdap	1. Can be given to any person of any age entering a North Carolina college/university (where Td is required by NC Immunization law) for the first time who has never received Tdap. 2. Post partum women seen at local health departments if no documentation of Tdap vaccine exists	N/A	

An updated version of the full NCIP Coverage Criteria will be available on-line soon at: www.immunizenc.com.