



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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August 20, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

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

SUBJECT: Key Facts and Reminders about the 2010-11 Influenza Season

The purpose of this memo is to remind providers of some important points regarding influenza vaccine this season. For your convenience, all the documents referenced in this memo may be found on the N.C. Immunization Branch’s new influenza 2010-11 page on our website at: www.immunizenc.com/flu vaccineproviders.htm

Recommendations

- The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) complete recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza with vaccines may be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5908a1.htm?s_cid=rr5908a1_w Note that there is an update and an erratum to the recommendations. A link to the report is also available on our website.
- The ACIP recommends annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥ 6 months.
- The ACIP recommends all health care workers receive a flu vaccine. Be sure to get your vaccine and encourage your colleagues to do the same.
- Based on recent ACIP decisions regarding the influenza vaccine Afluria®, the Immunization Branch does not anticipate providing this product to pediatric practices. Links to more information on Afluria® recommendations may be found on our website.

Influenza Vaccine for 2010-11

- This season’s vaccine is comprised of the following three strains: an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus; an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus; and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.
- There will be no single-antigen H1N1 vaccine manufactured this season, because it is one of the three antigens included in the seasonal formulation for all seasonal vaccine products, as stated above.
- Administration of single-antigen H1N1 vaccine should be discontinued when seasonal influenza vaccine arrives at your practice.

Use of State-Supplied Flu Vaccine

- Influenza vaccine provided by the NCIP is only available for children who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Providers wishing to immunize children who are not VFC-eligible, and adult patients, must purchase vaccine for those groups. The current NCIP coverage criteria and definitions of VFC categories may be found on our website at: <http://www.immunizenc.com/coveragecriteria.htm>

Resources/Tools for Providers

- The Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) for the 2010-11 influenza vaccine are now available online at: <http://www.immunizenc.com/viss.htm> The CDC requires VISs be provided to patients when vaccines are administered.
- The ACIP seasonal influenza recommendations include an algorithm for clinically determining whether to administer 1 or 2 doses of flu vaccine to children 6 months through 8 years of age. This algorithm is available on our website. You may find it helpful to print and post this chart in your practice.
- Clinical questions regarding the 2010-11 influenza vaccine and its administration should be directed to the immunization nurse on-call at 919-707-5575. Questions regarding your flu vaccine order should be directed to the NCIP Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Remember that all the documents referenced here, including resources for educating patients/parents, are available on the Branch’s seasonal influenza 2010-11 webpage at: www.immunizenc.com/flu vaccineproviders.htm

Cc: SMT Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell Timika Poston Vaccine Manufacturers
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