



Healthy children...right from the start!

••••• Citywide Immunization Registry, New York City Department of Health •••••
Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor Neal L. Cohen, M.D., Commissioner

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Approved for VFC Program

The New York Vaccines for Children (NY VFC) Program will begin distribution of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (brand name Prevnar™) effective August 15, 2000. The vaccine is approved for VFC - eligible children between 6 weeks and 59 months of age. It is licensed for the prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease.

Invasive pneumococcal disease includes infections of the bloodstream, called bacteremia, and meningitis, which is an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord. Children who develop pneumococcal meningitis can die; for those who survive, neurological damage such as loss of hearing, blindness and mental retardation can occur. In clinical trials, Prevnar™ has been proven to be highly effective in preventing pneumococcal disease in young children.

Both the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the American Academy of Pediatrics have recommended that all children < 24 months of age be immunized against pneumococcal disease. The vaccine is also recommended for those children 24 to 59 months who are at high risk of invasive pneumococcal disease, including those who are

HIV positive or immunocompromised, those with chronic illness, and those with sickle cell disease/functional asplenia.

Other children 24 to 59 months of age may also be considered for the vaccine with special priority given to African Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, those attending group childcare and children 24 to 35 months of age. In some communities, including New York City, children 24 to 59 months of age enrolled in the VFC program may be considered at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease and immunization in these populations is encouraged.

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine is available in New York City from the Vaccines for Children Program through the usual ordering channels. For questions about ordering, call Mr. Dileep Sarecha at (212) 676-2298/65.

Table with 4 columns: Age, Primary Series, Booster Dose, Minimal Interval. Rows include age groups from 0-6 months to 24 months and older.

Quarterly Feature

Winner's Circle

To show our appreciation, four times a year we honor two health care sites for their outstanding efforts. Tasty treats and certificates of appreciation will be delivered to each of the winners and celebration will ensue! Stay tuned and you might be the next to hear: "And the winner is..."

For this quarter's winners, please turn the page!

[The Winners' Circle](#)

Bronx Pediatricians Embrace Technology

Dr. Arthur Hall embraces new technology in his practice, where he and his staff are dedicated to providing accessible healthcare to the diverse families living in the Bronx. Dr. Hall states that "most pediatricians are starting to use up-to-date technology, it is the wave of the future." Dr. Hall's utilization of the Citywide Immunization Registry is a good example of the application of technology to pediatric health care. For new patients whose records are missing or incomplete, Dr. Hall uses the Registry to check for information. Dr. Hall also reports to the Registry on-line, looking up each child and adding newly administered immunizations to their records. The practice also takes advantage of the printouts that the Registry can produce automatically, which are given to families that have lost their child's immunization record.

In the future, Dr. Hall would like to see the Registry used as an educational resource for families. "Immunizations are a complicated topic, about which families may not have enough information," says Dr. Hall. He imagines having the Registry linked to web sites that provide up-to-date vaccine information for parents, and was delighted to hear that this is a vision that we share. Currently, CIR staff are working on an extensive informational web site about the Registry for families and health care providers. In the future we envision the Registry itself will be Internet accessible for immunization record look-ups, and linked to a number of reliable vaccine information sites.

The Registry staff thank Dr. Hall for the example his practice sets, and looks forward to continued collaborations with him and with other health care providers using today's technology to enhance their ability to provide pediatric health care.

Dr. Tulio Gomez

The CIR congratulates Dr. Tulio Gomez and his staff on their dedication to their patients, and their dedication to reporting accurate immunization histories to the Registry. Dr. Gomez has a busy private practice in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn. On average, he sees 20-30 children per day. That adds up to a lot of immunizations.

Even with the challenges that come with such a busy practice, his office consistently reports all immunizations on-line for patients with records in the CIR, and sends immunization histories to the CIR for all children not yet listed in the Registry. This conscientious staff even goes a step further, by providing corrections to the CIR whenever they see changes that need to be made. "I'm very happy with the service" said Monika Sandoval, "when I check the records, any changes I'm asking to have done are being done quickly." It is the valued efforts of practices like Dr. Gomez's that make it possible for the CIR to provide accurate and complete immunization histories when you need them. We thank Dr. Gomez and his staff for their hard work and commitment to the health of New York City's children.

FREE TRAINING!

Computer Access to the CIR

Call: (212) 676-2323

Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor Humor

(Courtesy of the CIR)

One fellow walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. He said "Shingles." So she took down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." So she took down his height, weight, a complete medical history, and told him to wait in an examining room. A half hour later a nurse came in and asked what he had. He said "Shingles." So she gave him a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, told him to take off his clothes and wait for the doctor. An hour later the doctor came in and asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." The doctor said, "Where?" he said, "Outside in the truck. Where do you want them?"