

We help you call the shots!



Vaccines For Children Program Links with the CIR

Vaccines For Children (VFC) is a federally funded program that began in 1994. The program's goal is to improve immunization coverage by providing free vaccine to both public and private health care providers to administer to VFC-eligible children. This helps ensure that no VFC-eligible child contracts a vaccine preventable disease because of an inability to pay for a vaccination.

The benefits of this program are:

- 1 Eliminates vaccine cost as a barrier to immunizing eligible children.
- 2 Reduces the practice of referring children from the private sector to the public sector for vaccination, thereby keeping children in their medical home for comprehensive health care.
- 3 Saves parents and enrolled providers out-of-pocket expenses for vaccine.

Beginning in March 2003, the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) will be used to generate VFC vaccine doses administered reports for all public and private health care providers every month. These reports will be used to account for the provider's use of VFC vaccine and to help determine the amount of VFC vaccine

shipped to the provider. There will be a comparison of immunizations reported to the CIR and the quantity of vaccines ordered. By documenting the immunizations you administer in the CIR,

To order free vaccine, private providers should call 1-800 kid-shot, and public providers should call 212-447-2553.

you will ensure that an adequate supply of VFC vaccine will continue to be shipped to your office.

Alert: As of June 1, 2003 the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will begin managing the VFC program for all NYC providers. NY State currently manages the VFC program for private providers, but NYC will take this over on June 1, and the phone number to order free vaccine will change. Keep reading CIR News for updates. Call the NYC VFC program at 212-676-2296 for more information.

Reminder: Medicaid Managed Care Recall Project Underway

You will be receiving Immunization Reports for your patients soon. Please review, update and return them to the CIR promptly!





Quarterly Feature: Practice of the Quarter

Dr. David Treatman

The Online Registry is becoming an essential tool for pediatric practices throughout New York City. Dr. David Treatman and staff have been taking full advantage of the CIR since it went live on the Internet in June 2002.

This practice immunizes approximately 20-30 patients every week. They appreciate the convenience of the Online Registry for both the patients and the office staff. If a parent (or guardian) needs a copy of their child's immunization record for school, day care, or camp entry, the staff just prints it out directly from the CIR.

Dr. Treatman said "I like the up-to-date information that the Online Registry provides." He likes the

accuracy of the computer records and the recommendations of immunizations due that are generated each time he looks up and finds a patient. These recommendations help him ensure that his patients are fully immunized.

Dr. Treatman's staff also uses the Online Registry to report immunizations after each patient visit. This preferred method allows

them to report efficiently and accurately.

Dr. Treatman's staff says that reporting on paper forms was time-consuming, and he has found that using the Online Registry has minimized their workload. The CIR commends Dr. David



L-R: Beatrice Hernandez, Ester Torres, Dr. David Treatman.

Treatman and his friendly staff for their hard work and dedication to their patients, and thanks them for their support of the Citywide Immunization Registry.

A New Combination Vaccine: DtaP-Hepatitis B-IPV

A new combination vaccine can reduce the number of injections an infant needs in the first year of life. The combination DTaP-Hepatitis B-IPV (Pediatrix™) is indicated for use as a three-dose primary series in infants born to HBsAg-negative mothers. This intramuscular vaccine is indicated at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. The last dose of the hepatitis B vaccine series should be given no sooner than 6 months of age. This vaccine is not indicated for use as a booster dose. The vaccine should not be administered to any infant <6 weeks or to individuals 7 years or older. This combination vaccine may be administered at separate sites, along with Hib and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines.

Only single antigen Hepatitis B vaccine is indicated in infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers; combination vaccines containing Hepatitis B should not be used. A combination vaccine may be used whenever at least one of the component antigens is indicated and there is no contraindication to any component antigen. Whenever feasible, the same brand of DTaP vaccine should be used for all doses of the vaccination series. However, if the vaccine provider does not know or does not have available the type of DTaP vaccine previously administered, any available DTaP vaccine should be used to continue or complete the vaccination series. Call Dr. Sheila Palevsky, NYC DOHMH Immunization Program Medical Specialist, at 212.676.2264 should you have questions.

**Free
Training
at Your
Office!**

Have our staff train yours in reporting and retrieving immunization records via the Online Registry. Call **212-676-2323.**

Call us at 212-676-2323 if you would like free parent brochures and posters for your office.