

We help you call the shots!

New Vaccine Recommendations Rotavirus

To protect infants against **rotavirus** disease, a viral infection that can cause severe diarrhea, vomiting, fever and dehydration, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that infants receive 3 doses of the newly licensed oral rotavirus vaccine at 2, 4, and 6 months of age.

The rotavirus vaccine, **RotaTeq™** (Merck) can be given at the same time as other childhood vaccines and is the only vaccine approved in the United States for prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis.

RotaTeq™, may be ordered from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program for eligible children.

ACIP recommends the following 3-dose schedule for the rotavirus oral vaccine:

- Dose 1 between 6-12 weeks of age;
- Doses 2 and 3 at 4-10 week intervals;
- All doses by 32 weeks of age.

Influenza

ACIP expanded its influenza recommendation for children age 6 to 23 months to include routine influenza vaccination for children age 24 months up to age 59 months and their caregivers to help reduce the burden of influenza. Visit www.cdc.gov/nip/news/newsltrs/imwrks/2006/200603.htm for more information.

Tdap for Healthcare Workers (HCWs)

To reduce transmission of pertussis in health care facilities, ACIP recommends that all HCWs with direct patient contact in hospitals or ambulatory care settings receive a single dose of Tdap. ACIP urges HCWs to receive their Tdap vaccination as soon as possible, even if they received their last dose of Td as recently as 2 years ago.

Priority for vaccination should be given to HCWs who have direct contact with infants under age 12 months. Visit: www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/tdap

Hep B

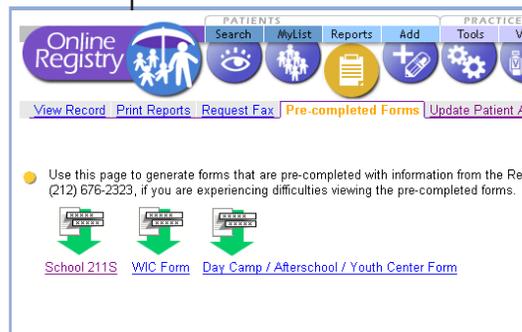
To better protect infants from hepatitis B virus infection, ACIP has revised its recommendation for the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine.

ACIP recommends that universal infant hepatitis B vaccination begin at birth, except in rare circumstances, and only with a physician's order and a copy of the original lab report indicating the mother was HbsAg negative during this pregnancy, is placed in the infant's medical record.

ACIP advises delivery hospitals to ensure that all newborns with birth weights of 2 kg or more receive the hepatitis B vaccine before discharge. Visit www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-schedule.htm for more information.

SAVE TIME!

Use Online Registry Pre-Completed Forms



The online registry now allows users to print official medical forms with immunizations, patient name, date of birth, and provider information already included!

The immunizations entered on the forms will include only those considered valid according

to ACIP. **From your desktop, you can edit the yellow highlighted areas on the forms, including the provider name.**

Official forms currently available:

- School 211-S (School Physical Exam Form)
- WIC Medical Referral Form
- Daycamp/Afterschool/Youth Center Form

Day Care Physical Exam form coming soon.....

Visit Us Online! nyc.gov/health/cir



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
City of New York
Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE



Quarterly Feature:

Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center

"I love the CIR," states Dr. Pascale Kersaint, one of two full-time pediatricians at the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center (BSFHC), a primary care center serving over 50,000 patients a year. Dr. Kersaint's excitement stems from BSFHC's tremendous undertaking to switch in just two short months from reporting solely on paper to exclusively reporting online.

Using the online registry not only ensures timely and accurate reporting, but also helps BSFHC effectively manage its immunization data, saving valuable time for its dedicated staff and enhancing patient care.

Mr. Joseph Nyitray, the Center's Performance Improvement Coordinator, initiated BSFHC's switch to online reporting as part of the Center's broader quality assurance effort. "I watched nurses and medical assistants come daily to medical records and manually record patients' immunization events." After January's online registry training by CIR staff, Mr. Nyitray implemented new policies and procedures for medical and nursing staff to more effectively "manage immunization information via the CIR's online registry."

For BSFHC, the CIR's online registry serves a three-fold function: reporting, data management, and quality assurance.

Ms. Unica Adams, a pediatric nurse, uses a dedicated computer to record current and multiple historical immunizations at the completion of each visit. BSFHC's new immunization protocol requires that medical staff verify the patient's immunization history and make any corrections in the patient's CIR record and medical chart at each visit.

Nurse Adams finds the provider reports with recommendations especially helpful. "I know by what date a child needs a particular shot." She routinely alerts parents when an immunization is due and schedules another visit, ensur-

ing that immunizations are on schedule.

Nurse Adams reviews, records and updates a minimum of 100 patient vaccinations per week, giving BSFHC the ability to generate immunization records for patients on the official forms for WIC medical referrals, school physical exams (211S), and day camps, after school and youth center programs. She appreciates the ability to record information quickly and easily search for new and former patients' immunization records.

Close to 90% of BSCHS' s patients under the age

**Unica Adams, LPN;
Dr. Pascale Kersaint; Joseph Nyitray,
Performance Improvement Coordinator**



of 19 are eligible for immunizations from the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Nurse Adams uses the online registry to easily indicate VFC patient eligibility at the time immunizations are administered.

BSFHC is also working with NYCDOH's Immunization Improvement Project to increase immunization coverage rates by following up with children who are due for shots.

Vaccines for Child Health Plus B enrollees will be distributed through VFC

Effective August 1, 2006, vaccines for CHPlus B enrollees will be distributed through VFC. Providers enrolled in VFC will no longer have to purchase vaccines for their CHPlus B patients and can order vaccines by the same process used for VFC eligible children. Call (212) 447-8175 with questions or to enroll in VFC.

VFC New Fax Number: (212) 447-8196

Plan ahead for flu season 2006-07!

Order influenza vaccine now!
Visit www.nyc.gov/health/flu.

Honor Roll

The Bureau of Immunization recognizes those practitioners who have achieved above 90% immunization coverage for two-year olds for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, and have improved their immunization coverage in the CIR. This quarter we honor:

- The Elmhurst Pediatric and Multi-Specialty Offices of the Queens Long Island Medical Group
- The Midland Parkway Center of the Queens Long Island Medical Group
- Dr. Ming Zhu and Dr. Alisa Milman, Brooklyn, NY

Our Mission: To improve the immunization status of all NYC children by consolidating immunization information and sharing it with health care providers, families, and agencies concerned with children's health.