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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF

May 10, 2010

Dear Colleague:

Two new products, Cervarix™ (GlaxoSmithKline) and Menveo® (Novartis), have recently been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and are now available for order through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and from their respective manufacturers or distributors.

Cervarix (HPV2) is a bivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine indicated for the prevention of cervical cancer and precancerous lesions caused by HPV types 16 and 18. It is licensed for use only in females. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all females complete a 3-dose HPV vaccine series using either of the available HPV vaccines (HPV2 vaccine or the previously licensed quadrivalent HPV4 vaccine) at 11 or 12 years of age with catch-up vaccination through age 26. Whenever possible, the same brand of vaccine should be used for all doses of the series; however, vaccination should not be delayed if the brand used for the previous dose is not available or is unknown. There are separate Vaccine Information Statements and codes for the two different HPV vaccines:

Cervarix (HPV2)	CPT 90650	CVX 118
Gardasil (HPV4)	CPT 90649	CVX 62

Menveo (MCV4) is the second quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine indicated for prevention of invasive meningococcal disease due to serogroups A, C, Y, and W-135. It is licensed for use only in persons ages 11 through 55 years; it is not currently licensed for use in younger children. This product consists of lyophilized serogroup A (a powder) that is reconstituted with a liquid comprised of serogroups C, Y, and W-135. All adolescents, at the 11-12 year visit, are recommended to receive a dose of either brand of meningococcal conjugate vaccine; older teens that have not yet had a dose should be vaccinated. The CPT code for meningococcal conjugate vaccine is the same for both products; the specific CVX code for Menveo is 136.

In addition, there is a new pre-filled syringe presentation of Infanrix® (GlaxoSmithKline). Infanrix (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis [DTaP]) is licensed for use for any dose of DTaP in infants and children 6 weeks through 6 years of age. ProQuad® (MMRV [Merck]), licensed for use in children 12 months through 12 years, will be available to order as of May 10th; projection of supply availability beyond the summer is uncertain.

For additional information about these vaccines please see www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp.htm

For questions related to VFC vaccine supply or availability, please contact the VFC Program at 212-447-8175. For questions about the Citywide Immunization Registry, call 212-676-2323. For professional or technical questions, call the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2259.

We thank you for your continuing efforts to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc