



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

***** Please Distribute To All Pediatric, Family Practice and Office Staff*****

July 11, 2007

Dear Colleague:

The addition of several new vaccines to the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm), as released by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), has resulted in a significant increase in the total cost of fully immunizing each child. As a result, financial issues have been identified that may present a barrier to the provision of some of these vaccines and that may negatively impact efforts to fully immunize New York City children. Recent changes to New York State law* require all insurers (for insurance written in New York State) to cover each vaccine recommended by the ACIP for children up to age 19 as soon as it is recommended. There is no comparable insurance requirement provided for adults.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) has become aware of several instances of insurers not including some of these vaccines as a covered benefit, reimbursement rates that are insufficient to cover providers' acquisition and administration costs, or denial of submitted claims.

The DOHMH is interested in learning more about these issues and the problems providers have encountered. We invite you to participate in a brief, confidential survey regarding both the human papillomavirus vaccine and the financial issues discussed. The survey is available on-line at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/vaccine_survey through August 10th. For those without internet access, you can complete the survey by calling 212-676-2273.

Please call 212-676-2259 with any questions or concerns or to provide information about specific problems you may have encountered. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

*<http://www.ins.state.ny.us/>

Click on Circular Letters, click on Circular Letter Index, 2006, and then Letter #13.