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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Chief *Talarico, D.O.*  
Center for Infectious Diseases  
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SUBJECT: 2013 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons 0 Through 18 Years

### New Immunization Schedules and Footnotes

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have summarized current recommendations for routine immunizations in their [2013 annual immunization schedules](#). The childhood and adolescent immunization schedules have been combined into a single schedule, [2013 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years](#). For each vaccine, the footnotes of the schedule now summarize routine vaccination recommendations, catch-up vaccination recommendations, and specific recommendations for high-risk persons.

In keeping with the VFC provider agreement, VFC providers should follow the [recommended 2013 ACIP immunization schedule](#). We encourage providers to review the 2013 immunization schedule, complete footnotes, and catch-up schedule together with all staff, especially those who order and administer vaccines. We recommend that the 2013 schedules, including footnotes, be posted for reference in the office.

**Updates to the 2013 Schedule** include but are not limited to:

- **Tdap:** Now [recommended to be administered during each pregnancy, preferably at 27 through 36 weeks gestation](#), regardless of the number of years since the last Tdap; to provide protection to both the mother and newborn.
- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccines:** Recommendations were summarized to reflect recent recommendations, current age indications of licensed meningococcal vaccines, and [inclusion of HibMenCY](#). We encourage providers to review this section carefully.
  - As of February 2013, HibMenCY is not yet on the federal CDC contract and not yet available for ordering from VFC. Providers will be notified once the vaccine is available from the California VFC Program.
- **Influenza vaccines:** [Dosing guidance was updated for the 2012-13 season](#) for children 6 months through 8 years. The new abbreviation "IIV" for inactivated influenza vaccine reflects that there will be new quadrivalent influenza vaccines as well as trivalent influenza vaccines during the 2013-14 season.

### **Reminder: Ongoing Recommendations**

- [Routine HPV vaccination is recommended for all males](#), as well as females, at age 11-12 years. VFC vaccine may be used through the age of 18 years to catch-up both females and males to complete the full 3 dose series.
- [Routine MCV4 booster](#) is recommended at age 16 years.
- [Second dose of varicella vaccine](#) is recommended for school-age youth who received only one dose previously. Many adolescents have not yet received a second dose.

### **VFC Vaccine Administration Fees Changes**

- **VFC Regional Administration Fee**

VFC providers may charge VFC-eligible children not covered by Medi-Cal (i.e., uninsured, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and, when administered by an FQHC or RHC, underinsured children) up to but not more than a federal maximum regional administration charge. Effective January 1, 2013 this charge has been increased from \$17.55 to \$26.03.

For VFC-eligible children covered by Medi-Cal, providers must accept the reimbursement for immunization administration set by Medi-Cal or the contracted Medicaid health plans.

- **Medi-Cal Administration Fee**

Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for vaccine administration for qualifying providers are expected to increase this year, retroactive to January 1, 2013, because of provisions in the Affordable Care Act. Additional information will be forthcoming from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Providers should refer to the [DHCS website](#) and Medi-Cal bulletins for further details.

### **Reminders**

The Institute for Safe Medicine Practices (ISMP) has an online system for reporting vaccine administration errors. Providers may report any errors confidentially at <http://verp.ismp.org>. ISMP will use the information obtained to make recommendations for improving the safety of vaccine administration.

Please make sure to use the most up-to-date [Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\)](#) for each vaccine at every immunization visit. The most current VIS may be downloaded at <http://www.eziz.org>.

Providers should ensure that all staff who administer and handle vaccines have completed the EZIZ training modules at [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) as part of comprehensive staff development and competency assessment.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC) or visit [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org)

Enclosure