Oregon Immunization Bulletin

Public Health Division July 2007

ALERT Expands to Lifespan!

ALERT is excited to announce the passage of HB2188A, legislation to expand the registry from 0 to 18 years to lifespan immunization tracking. Phase one of the expansion will be to broaden the registry from 0 to 23 years. In January 2008, you will be able to view immunization records on patients 0-23 years.

The following agencies in particular played an instrumental role in the bill's passage, and deserve recognition and thanks for their significant input:

- Oregon Education Association
- Oregon Medical Association
- Oregon Association of Family Practitioners
- Dunes Family Medicine
- Kaiser Permanente
- Providence Health System
- Oregon Youth Authority
- Acumentra Health
- Marion County Health Department
- Washington County Health Department
- Douglas County Health Department
- Oregon State Pharmacists Association
- Oregon Board of Pharmacists
- Oregon Health Sciences University
- Oregon Adult Immunization Coalition
- ALERT Advisory Committee
- Immunization Policy Advisory Team
- Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children
- Oregon College Health Association
- Oregon School Nurses Association
- School/Facility Immunization Law Advisory Board

ALERT would like to thank the large number of community partners who came together to support passage of this bill!

New ALERT Director

The Oregon Immunization Program (OIP) is pleased to announce Mary Beth Kurilo as the Director of the Oregon ALERT Immunization Information System. Mary Beth worked in health care quality improvement before joining the OIP. She completed her graduate work in public health and social work in 2001 at the University of Washington, focusing on Maternal and Child Health topics. She has a passion for prevention work, and believes that health information systems can and will have an exceptional impact on improving health care delivery and outcomes. She presented several topics related to immunization information system development and data use at the 2004 Immunization Registry Conference and the 2006 and 2007 National Immunization Conference.

The OIP welcomes Mary Beth as the new ALERT Director!

Vaccines for Children

No VFC Vaccine Shipments Through August 10th

Reminder – Vaccine orders will not be shipped between July 16th through August 10th as VFC transitions to the new vaccine ordering and distribution system. However, orders will continue to be accepted.

Expanded HPV Coverage for Public Sites

Public sites (including health departments, state, and delegate agencies, not including private immunization providers) will have expanded 317 funding for females receiving HPV from 9 to 12 years to 9 through 18 years!

Hear it First!

The OIP expects news any day now regarding Medicaid (managed care and fee-for-service plans) coverage of HPV vaccine for adult women. To hear it first, subscribe to Oregon's Immunization Provider List serve! To subscribe, send your e-mail address and clinic name to: lydia.m.luther@state.or.us

VFC Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who completed the OIP satisfaction survey last summer and fall.

Here are some highlights:

- All providers report that they are satisfied to very satisfied with the OIP.
- 99% of private providers and 84% of public providers report that site visits with their VFC Health Educator are helpful.
- Over 90% of private providers report data to ALERT, and more providers than ever are sending their data electronically.
- Providers appreciate The Bulletin! Over 80% of private providers and 90% of public providers read it.

Questions?

Call 971-673-0300

Providers also gave great suggestions including:

- More training opportunities in rural areas
- More resources available through the OIP Web site
- Expand the forecaster in IRIS and ALERT to include all ages

The OIP is exploring all of these suggestions and will use these ideas to make this program even stronger!

A full copy of the report is available at: www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/imm

MMR-V Not Available

ProQuad (MMR and Varicella combined) is no longer available for the remainder of 2007 and possibly into 2008. Providers may experience back order delays for existing, approved ProQuad orders from June through August 2007.

Call your Immunization Health Educator if you have any questions about the status of your VFC ProQuad order.

ALERT Reminder Recall Study-Phase Two!

As many readers know, ALERT is in the midst of a small study to evaluate the optimal timing and content of reminder/recall messages for Oregon children. In March and April, the study mailed reminder postcards to 13-month-old children enrolled in the intervention cohorts. In July and August, due or past-due 17-month-old children will also receive reminder postcards. If you have questions about the study, please contact ALERT Customer Service at 800-980-9431.

Meningococcal Recommendations Back in Place

With improved inventory and supply of Menactra®, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reinstated the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for meningococcal vaccination. For Oregon providers, this means that, all VFC-eligible children, ages 2 through 18 are eligible to receive Meningococcal vaccine. As a reminder, Menactra® is available through VFC for ages 11 through 18. Menomune® is available for high-risk kids, ages 2 to 10 years.

VFC - A New Way of Doing Business

Beginning August 6th, there will be a new way of doing business, and it will centralize how publicly funded vaccine is distributed nationally. This new Vaccine Management Business Improvement Plan (VMBIP), will streamline ordering and distribution processes, improve efficiency, and save on program costs.

Why is the Oregon Immunization Program making these changes? The CDC has mandated that all state Immunization Programs transition to this new distribution plan in 2007.

What are the benefits of this change? It will reduce the risk of wasted and expired vaccine, and improve aspects of vaccine management by reducing the chances that clinics will run out of vaccine. The reliability and consistency of vaccine supply will be improved, and the streamlining of distribution will save taxpayer dollars.

What will change? In August, all public and private VFC providers will begin receiving vaccine from the distribution center, McKesson. In September, there will be a change in how frequently vaccine is ordered. All providers enrolled in the VFC Program have been placed in tiers that will dictate how often they can order. Tier designation was mailed to all clinics with re-enrollment paperwork.

If you have any questions about VMBIP, tiered ordering, or how this will affect your clinic, please contact your Immunization Program Health Educator at 971-673-0300.

Ask Maria

Do persons who received chemotherapy need their vaccines repeated?

Vaccines received before starting chemotherapy do not need to be repeated after chemotherapy is completed. Chemotherapy does not negate vaccine-induced immunity. However, revaccination is recommended for persons who are recipients of a hematopoietic stem cell transplant, such as a bone marrow transplant, because immunity present before the transplant is lost and may not be replaced by donor cells.

What is the recommendation for vaccinating splenectomized patients receiving Hib, pneumococcal, and meningococcal vaccines?

Persons with anatomic or functional asplenia (including sickle cell disease) are at increased risk of infection with encapsulated bacteria, especially with *S. pneumoniae* (pneumococcus), *N. meningitidis* (meningococcus), and Hib. If unvaccinated, these persons should receive age-appropriate Hib, pneumococcal, and meningococcal vaccines. Although Hib vaccine is not routinely recommended for persons 5 years of age and older, studies suggest good immunogenicity in patients who have sickle cell disease or have had splenectomies. Therefore, healthcare providers may choose to administer Hib vaccine to older children and adults with chronic conditions associated with an increased risk for Hib disease.

The answers to these common questions from vaccine providers comes from "Ask the Experts" which can be accessed at: www.immunize.org/askexperts/.

Let Breastfeeding be Baby's First Immunization

The Oregon Immunization Program works closely with our partner, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). This collaboration helps to ensure that children get the referrals they need to be healthy and strong.

Every year World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated during the first week of August. This year's theme stresses the importance of breastfeeding within the first hour after birth. Breastfeeding truly is an infant's first immunization. Breastmilk contains an assortment of infection fighting substances that strengthen the infant immune system. Some key messages that your office or clinic could share with patients include:

- Breastfeeding, along with immunizations, will help your baby fight infection and disease and provide health benefits that last a lifetime
- Breastfeeding can comfort a baby after shots are given
- WIC can help answer your breastfeeding questions. Call 1.800.SAFENET for the WIC clinic nearest you

Please note: Beginning October 1, 2007, WIC will be changing its contract formula from Mead Johnson products (Enfamil Lipil, Prosobee Lipil, Gentlease Lipil or Lactofree Lipil) to Ross brands. **WIC's data system will be unable to issue these Mead Johnson formulas after October 1, even with a medical provider prescription.** For details, talk to your local WIC Coordinator, or go to egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/wic/.

CDC Immunization Update-Highlights From the NW Immunization Conference - Presenter Dr Bill Atkinson

New Influenza Vaccine Recommendations for 2007-2008:

- Children 6 months through 8 years being vaccinated for the first time, should receive TWO doses.
- Beginning in season 2007-2008, ACIP and AAP recommend that children 6 months through 8 years who do not return for the 2nd dose in their first year of vaccination, should receive TWO doses their second year of vaccination, whenever that year might be.

Provisional Recommendations for Zoster Vaccine (October 2006):

- Adults 60 years and older should receive a single dose of zoster vaccine.
- Routine vaccination of persons younger than 60 years is NOT recommended.
- A history of herpes zoster should not influence the decision to vaccinate.
- Screening for a history of Varicella disease is not necessary or recommended to administer zoster vaccine to a person ≥ 60 years of age.

Rotavirus Vaccine and Intussusception Summary:

- 3.6 million doses have been distributed in the U.S. from March 2006 through January 2007.
- 35 confirmed intussusception reports through February 15, 2007.
- 17 reports occurred one to 21 days following immunization, 11 of the 17 occurred between day one and day seven.
- Current **intussusception rates are not greater than what would be expected to occur in a normal year.**
- CDC continues to support the ACIP recommendation for routine immunization of all U.S. infants with three doses of RotaTeq vaccine.

Human Papilloma Vaccine (HPV) is Recommended for Immunization of Females 11 to 12 Years of Age:

- The vaccination series can be started as young as 9 years of age with catch-up vaccination through age 26 years.
- The efficacy of the vaccine when less than three doses are given is not known (studies are in progress).
- The duration of immunity after a complete three-dose schedule is currently being studied.

Increased Access for Hepatitis B Birth Dose

Oregon's Immunization Program (OIP) has been given a wonderful opportunity to promote Hepatitis B immunization for all newborns. Enough funding has been received to offer every child born in the State of Oregon a birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine at no cost to the family or hospital. The OIP is currently reaching out to hospitals interested in this effort.

There are many reasons to give the birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine: 90 percent of infected infants will be chronic carriers of HBV and 25 percent of those will suffer from cirrhosis or liver cancer. These individuals will serve as the main reservoir for continued HBV transmission. Perinatal Hepatitis B vaccination will safeguard infants against maternal HBsAg testing errors, will protect neonates discharged to households in which people with chronic HBV reside, and will maximize the likelihood that the child will receive the complete series of Hepatitis B vaccine for lifelong protection against the disease.

In addition, the ACIP recommends (as of December 2005) universal hepatitis B vaccination at birth.

OIP strongly encourages you to be part of this opportunity to protect Oregon's newborns against HBV. If you are interested in enrolling your hospital in the birth dose program, please contact the Immunization Health Educator for your area: 971-673-0300.

Health & Medical Volunteers Needed

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a network of health and medical volunteers who donate time and expertise to participate in local emergency preparedness and response activities. The MRC program is funded, in part, by the CDC's Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). CRI's mission is to enhance local public health emergency preparedness in major metropolitan regions. CRI works closely with Oregon's Strategic National Stockpile program, which is housed in the Oregon Immunization Program.

Pre-identified and pre-credentialed volunteers can serve as valuable resources during large-scale public health disasters. Last March, three Washington County MRC nurses responded to a request from Washington County's health department to assist with a TB workplace investigation. Hundreds of PPD skin tests were administered during this response.

All MRC units are community-based and locally organized. The established units in the Portland Metro Region are: Clackamas County MRC, Clark County MRC, Columbia County MRC, Multnomah County Health Reserve Corps (HRC), and Washington County MRC.

To learn more about MRC or to join your local unit, visit www.medicalreservecorps.gov.

Oregon Immunization
check it out!

www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/imm

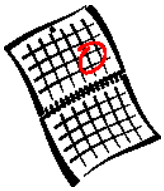
NW Immunization Conference – A Great success

On May 15 and 16th, the Oregon Immunization Program was proud to host the *2007 NW Immunization Conference: Partnering for Success*. This event was a collaboration between the Washington State Immunization Program/ CHILD Profile and the Oregon Immunization Program.

Attendees were treated to several nationally-known speakers, and over thirty breakout session options. The conference was held at the elegant Portland Hilton and Executive Tower, which was a centrally located venue that gave out-of-towners a chance to visit beautiful downtown Portland.

With 550 attendees from more than 10 states and 3 countries, and over 20 exhibitors and commercial supporters, the NW Immunization Conference was a resounding success. Copies of the presentations in a CD-ROM are available. E-mail your request and mailing info to: anne.m.vancuren@state.or.us or call 971.673.0300.

Mark your Calendars for the Flu Summit



Plans for the Oregon Adult Immunization Coalitions Annual Flu Summit are ramping up with this year's curriculum focusing on the benefits of vaccination for health care workers. The summit, to be held Wednesday, August 29th from noon to 4p.m., will feature a nationally-recognized speaker that has implemented a successful influenza vaccine project in a hospital setting. To complement this presentation, there will also be two concurrent workshops: One on vaccine administration training (including instruction on how to administer FluMist™) and another on how-to set up a mass-vaccination clinic in your own setting. Save-The-Date cards will be coming to you soon. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this popular event, contact Jenny Robinson at 971-673-0437.

OPIC Roundtable Meetings and VFC Trainings in Bend and Hillsboro

September 18, 2007
St. Charles Medical Center
Bend, Oregon

September 26, 2007
Tuality Hospital-
Health Education Center
Hillsboro, Oregon

Both days will consist of a Roundtable meeting in the morning and VFC Training in the afternoon. Attendance is free, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Health care professionals and those with a vested interest in immunizations are encouraged to attend these trainings.

For more information, please contact OPIC Coordinator Karen Elliott at karen.r.elliott@state.or.us or 971-673-0300.

OAIC gets Nationally Recognized

The Oregon Immunization Program is proud to announce the recent recognition of Oregon Adult Immunization Coalition (OAIC) by the *Immunization Technical Assistance Network (IZTA)*. The OAIC and GetAFluShot.com were chosen because of their work with underserved populations and for their late-season influenza activities.

See the article on the IZTA website at www.izta.org (click on the 'Coalitions in Action' link on the right). OAIC is listed in the "Promising Practices" section along with many other excellent agencies nationwide. This section recognizes novel interventions and collaborations in vaccination; the OAIC is proud to be considered among them.

While it is an honor, this recognition is a reminder of OAIC's need for vigilance. Reducing barriers to vaccination should be a priority for immunization stakeholders; the OAIC still has a long way to go.

Please consider getting involved in OAIC and help make a difference in the community! It is through volunteers like you that this organization is able to sustain momentum on this and many other important projects. Call or e-mail Bryan for more information at 971-673-0472 or bryan.goodin@state.or.us.

Joyce Caramella, RN
OAIC Chairperson

To receive this in an alternate format please call 971-673-0300

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