

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

FROM: Mick Bolduc
VFC Coordinator

DATE: May 31, 2007

SUBJECT: Update: Transition to McKesson Specialty

Several months ago you were notified that as of June 11, 2007 McKesson Specialty will become the new shipping vendor for the Connecticut Immunization Program. The change to McKesson is part of a national, centralized distribution system being implemented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This letter provides updated information on the transition to McKesson.

McKesson Order Processing

Providers will continue to fax their orders into the Connecticut Immunization Program at their designated ordering time (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly). **Orders must arrive by the first business day of the month you are scheduled to order (i.e. June orders received by June 1st)** **Late orders will not be accepted.** The orders will be processed by immunization program staff and forwarded on to McKesson for shipping. Vaccine shipments should be made within 5 business days of receipt by McKesson. The vaccine is shipped in storage containers that maintain the cold chain for up to 72 hours. If delivery cannot be made within 72 hours the vaccine will be returned to McKesson. It is imperative that providers make sure the immunization program has updated shipping days and hours for each office. **If your shipping information has recently changed or the office will be closed for any unscheduled period of time, please contact us immediately with any updated information.**

Vaccine Shipping

McKesson will be using high quality Styrofoam inserts in cardboard boxes to ship your vaccines. The cardboard boxes come in four different sizes, some of which are rather large. Each package comes with return postage labeling so that the boxes can be returned to McKesson for re-use. Upon receipt of the vaccine office staff must check the temperature inside the shipping container by reading the temperature recording device located inside the container. If the temperature recording device reads "OK", then the cold chain has been maintained. If the recording device reads anything other than OK then the cold chain has been broken and the vaccine should not be used. Please contact the immunization program immediately to report any shipment whose vaccine has been compromised. To return the shipping container to McKesson simply reverse the inside flaps of the container to the outside of the box so that McKesson's pre-paid return

address label is showing. Tape the box shut and give to your postal worker for return to McKesson.

Return of Expired/Spoiled Vaccines

Another important change concerns the return of expired or spoiled vaccines. In the past you were directed to fill out a vaccine return form and send your vaccines back to the state immunization program. This will no longer be the policy. **Starting on June 11th providers will:**

- 1. Fill out and fax the vaccine return form to the immunization program.**
- 2. Return all expired/spoiled vaccines directly to McKesson using one of their shipping containers.**
- 3. Include a copy of the completed vaccine return form with your expired/spoiled vaccines.**

A newly revised vaccine return form is enclosed for your records. Please discard any old versions you may have. Also enclosed are updated versions of the DTaP, HPV, and Varicella Vaccine Information Statements (VIS).

I realize these changes may have an additional impact on your already limited time. I do appreciate all the efforts you are making in trying to ensure a smooth transition over to McKesson. If you have any questions about these changes or wish to discuss aspects about the new system, please feel free to contact me directly at (860) 509-7940.