TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

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SUBJECT: Expansion of age eligibility for Hepatitis A and Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccines

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the expansion of age-groups in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program that qualify to be vaccinated with state-supplied hepatitis A and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines.

**Hepatitis A Vaccine**
Hepatitis A vaccine has been routinely recommended for all children 12-23 months of age since October 2005. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also encourages catch vaccination for children 2-18 years of age. Hepatitis A vaccine can also be used in lieu of immune globulin (IG) for persons recently exposed to the hepatitis A virus.

Beginning December 1st, the Immunization Program is expanding the use of state-supplied hepatitis A vaccine to include all VFC-eligible children 2-18 years of age, not just those 12-23 months old.

VFC eligibility is defined as any one of the following:
- Medicaid enrolled
- No health insurance
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

In addition, those individuals who are underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover the full cost of immunizations) can be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to be immunized with VFC-supplied vaccine.

The schedule for Hepatitis A vaccine calls for 2 doses to be administered 6 months apart.

**Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine**
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) has been routinely recommended since 2000. Due to initial supply problems with the vaccine and overwhelming demand, the Immunization Program limited PCV to VFC-eligible children 2-23 months of age. With supply no longer a concern, and a new daycare entry requirement in place for PCV, conditions now allow us to expand catch up vaccination for children 24-59 months of age.
Beginning December 1st, the Immunization Program is expanding the use of state-supplied pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to include all VFC-eligible children 24-59 months of age, not just those 2-23 months old.

As a reminder, all children should receive a 3 dose primary series and a booster dose if vaccination is begun at < 6 months of age, a 2 dose primary series and a booster if vaccination is begun at 7-11 months of age, or a 2 dose primary series with no booster if vaccination is begun between 12-23 months of age. Unvaccinated healthy children 24-59 months old should receive a single dose of vaccine.

An updated Vaccine Eligibility Criteria list for state supplied vaccines with the corresponding CPT Codes is enclosed for your records. As always if you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.