



AAP IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Updates & Alerts	1
Pediatric Practice In Action!	1
Upcoming Events	2
Funding Opportunities	2
Red Book Online	2
Resources	2-3
Featured Research	3
Special Section NVAC Standard #3	4-6

Links to AAP Resources

[The Bookstore](#)

[Member Center](#)

[Department of Practice](#)

The Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP) is a cooperative agreement grant between the CDC and AAP. (Cooperative Agreement: U66/CCU524285-02)



Updates and Alerts

➤ **Influenza Activity in the United States, March 5-11, 2006**

A recent *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* article describes data regarding laboratory surveillance, mortality related to pneumonia/influenza and influenza-like-illness, and pediatric deaths and hospitalizations for the 2005-06 flu season. To view the full *MMWR* report, [click here](#).

➤ **New Recommendations for Hepatitis B Vaccination**

The AAP has endorsed new recommendations issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding hepatitis B vaccination. The recommendations still include universal infant immunization but now allow the first dose to be delayed on "a case-by-case basis and only in rare circumstances." Several qualifiers are also listed. More information is available at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Web site](#).

➤ **Changes to Influenza Immunization Schedule**

ACIP has issued a new recommendation expanding routine influenza vaccination to children 24 to 59 months of age. However, this recommendation is not final until it is published in *MMWR*. The AAP's Committee on Infectious Diseases is developing AAP recommendations, which will need approval by the AAP Board of Directors before becoming official policy.

More information is available on the [National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Web site](#)

➤ **VariZIG™ for Postexposure Prophylaxis of Varicella Available Under an Investigational New Drug Application Expanded Access Protocol**

In February 2006, an investigational (not licensed) VZIG product, VariZIG™ became available under an investigational new drug application (IND) submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This product can be requested from the sole authorized U.S. distributor, FFF Enterprises (Temecula, California), for patients who have been exposed to varicella and who are at increased risk for severe disease and complications. For the full *MMWR* report, [click here](#).

➤ **MMWR Report on Mumps in Iowa**

In Iowa, an average of five cases have been reported annually since 1996. However, in 2006, by March 28, a total of 219 mumps cases had been reported in Iowa, and an additional 14 persons with clinically compatible symptoms were being investigated in three neighboring states in what has become the largest epidemic of mumps in the United States since 1988. [This report](#) summarizes and characterizes the ongoing mumps epidemic in Iowa.

Pediatric Practice in Action!

CDC Issues Tdap Recommendations

On February 23, 2006, CDC issued recommendations for adolescents to receive a tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. [This MMWR report](#) summarizes Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations regarding the new vaccine; reviews tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccination policy in the United States; and describes the clinical features and epidemiology of pertussis among adolescents.

NOTE: A Continuing Education Activity has been approved for this report and will be included in the print and electronic format on March 24, 2006, in Vol. 55, No. RR-3. The credits awarded are as follows: CME, 2.75; CNE, 3.1; CEU, 0.25; CHES, 2.5; and CPE, 0.25.

Upcoming Events

- **Pediatric Academic Societies' Annual Meeting**
April 29 – May 2, 2006
San Francisco, CA
Web site: www.pas-meeting.org
- **9th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research**
May 8-10, 2006
Baltimore, MD
Web site: www.nfid.org/conferences/vaccine06
- **Pandemic Influenza and Public Health Law Broadcast**
June 8, 2006
10:00-11:30am Pacific Time
Web site: www.cdlnh.com/PanFluPHLaw.info
- **7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions**
August 9-11, 2006
Denver, Colorado
Web site: www.seeuthere.com/event/m2c666-455170415278

Funding Opportunities

- **Daily Points of Light**
The Daily Points of Light Awards Program honors those engaged in exemplary volunteer work and community service. Awards are made in six areas: continuing relationships with caring people, safe communities, a healthy start for a health future, quality education for all, opportunities for young people, and community mobilization. Nominations are accepted throughout the year; selections are made quarterly. **Deadline: May 1, 2006.** Info: www.pointsoflight.org or 202/729-8184
- **Starr Foundation**
The Starr Foundation makes grants in a number of areas, including education, medicine and healthcare, human needs, public policy, culture and the environment. In 2003, an average grant was \$25,000 to \$125,000. **Deadline: Rolling.** Info: <http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/starr> or Starr Foundation, 399 Park Ave, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10022, 212/909-3600.
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
The Vulnerable Populations Portfolio of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is seeking new community-based approaches to health and healthcare problems that intersect with social factors- such as inadequate housing, poor education and poverty. The foundation supports projects that serve hard-to-reach individuals and families, especially new immigrants and refugees and at-risk adolescents. Grant awards are up to \$300,000 for a period of three years. Grassroots organizations, faith-based and advocacy organizations are encouraged to apply. Eligible applicants include public entities or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. **Deadline: Rolling.** Info: www.rwjf.org/applications/program/cfp.jsp?ID=19480

Resources

- **Mumps Outbreak at a Summer Camp**
In summer of 2005, the New York State Department of Health identified an outbreak of mumps during summer camp. The disease was likely introduced by a camp counselor who traveled to the US from the United Kingdom, where there is an ongoing mumps epidemic, and had not been vaccinated. For the full *MMWR* report, [click here](#).

Red Book Online

Digging Deeper on Red Book Online

Red Book Online (www.aapredbook.org) is perhaps best known as the online home of the esteemed Red Book text (accessible via the Table of Contents at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/current.shtml>) and the 1,400+ images of the Red Book Visual Library (<http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/visual>), but it also features many lesser-known features that have become popular for browsing site visitors. Here are some of the highlights:

1. Status of Licensure and Recommendations for New Vaccines - <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/news/vaccstatus.shtml> - The secret's out about this important, continually updated table for keeping track of new vaccines in the approval pipeline - exclusive to *Red Book Online*.
2. AAP Electronic Resources page - <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/resources/electronicresources.shtml> - This updated page features a handy overview of all AAP electronic publications (*Red Book Online* and beyond) - and covers online resources, PDA programs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and VHS videos.
3. "Look Inside" page for *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools* - <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/resources/midsheets.shtml> - This brand new page spotlights the very popular new AAP guide, *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools*. Due to popular demand, the AAP has recently posted online versions (PDFs) of two of the popular Quick Reference Sheets from the guide on this *Red Book Online* page for an exclusive glimpse inside the book.

➤ **Mumps Epidemic in the United Kingdom**

In 2004-2005, the United Kingdom experienced a mumps epidemic. The majority of confirmed cases were between 15-24 years of age and had not been eligible for routine mumps vaccination. For the full *MMWR*, [click here](#).

➤ **Trends in Tuberculosis**

This [MMWR report](#) describes the history of tuberculosis in the United States and trends in the disease since 1993. The decline of tuberculosis slowed to 3.8% a year since 2001, down from 7.1% from 1993 to 2000. The number of cases has not changed significantly for foreign-born persons.



Got an idea about a topic you'd like us to cover?
Email us at: cispimmunize@aap.org

Featured Research Findings

Volume Matters: Physician Practice Characteristics and Immunization Coverage Among Young Children Insured Through a Universal Health Plan

By Astrid Guttman, MDCM, MSc, Doug Manuel, MD, MSc, Paul T. Dick, MDCM, MSc, Teresa To, PhD, Kelvin Lam, MSc, Therese A. Stukel, PhD

A recent article in *Pediatrics* examined a cohort of 2-year-old children covered by a universal health insurance plan in Ontario, Canada. Despite a large number of primary care visits the authors found that up-to-date immunization coverage was low (66.3%). A low volume of pediatric primary care was one of the strongest indicators of a child not being up-to-date. Other indicators of a child being not up-to-date include a low continuity of care and the usual provider being in practice for less than 5 years. Children from low-income neighborhoods were also less likely to be up-to-date.

Due to the relationship between high volume and low immunization coverage, as well as the positive relationship between time a provider is in practice and immunization rates, the authors suggest targeting physician education that seeks to reduce missed opportunities. The authors also state that due to the relationship between continuity of care and coverage, improving access to a “designated established ‘medical home’ for primary care of children” could also improve immunization rates.

For the full article, [click here](#).



Maintaining Standards of Excellence: Part 3

A Series in Support of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee

The National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) [Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices](#) represent the most desirable immunization practices, which pediatricians should strive to achieve. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) endorses the NVAC *Standards* and encourages pediatricians to fully implement the recommendations. In an effort to address implementation challenges, the AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program has developed the “Maintaining Standards of Excellence” series to provide pediatricians and other health care professionals with practical strategies and resources to fully implement each of the NVAC *Standards*.

NVAC Standard #3: Barriers to vaccination are identified and minimized.

Barriers to receiving vaccines include delays in scheduling appointments, requiring a well-care visit, long waiting periods in the office, and lack of culturally and age-appropriate educational materials. A physical examination, although an important part of well care, should not be required before administering vaccines: simply observing the patient and questioning about the patient’s health status, immunization history, and vaccine contraindications are sufficient. In addition, vaccination-only visits should be available. Health care professionals should seek advice from parents/guardians and patients to identify ways to make vaccination services easier to use.

Review Standing Orders to Ensure that Vaccinations are Available During All Visits

- ✓ Ensure immunizations are available at all visits, sick or well, during regular hours and weekend clinics.
- ✓ Utilize standing orders to allow staff to independently screen patients, identify opportunities for immunization, and administer vaccines under physician supervision (in accordance with local regulations).

Review Office Policy on Physical Exam Requirements for Immunization Administration

- ✓ Discuss current office policies with practice staff. Clarify that a physical exam is not required prior to vaccine administration, if the child is not due for a well-child visit. Review procedures for questioning patient’s health status, immunization history, and vaccine contraindications.
- ✓ Change written policy if necessary.

Create Vaccination-only Appointments or Dedicate Certain Office Hours to Vaccination

- ✓ When parents receive a [reminder](#) that their child is due for vaccinations, vaccination-only appointments help to ensure that children can be seen in a timelier manner. This is particularly true for children who are behind on their immunizations and need immunizations more frequently to catch up.
- ✓ Hold flexible office hours at non-traditional times, such as weekends, evenings, early mornings, or lunch hours in keeping with the schedules of working parents or those who are at home full- or part-time.
- ✓ Increase the number of vaccination-only appointments during periods of peak demand, such as the month prior to the first day of school, flu season, or other cases where demand may be higher than usual.





Provide Culturally-appropriate Educational Materials at the Necessary Literacy Level

- ✓ Display culturally diverse pictures, posters, magazines, etc.
- ✓ Provide written materials, including [Vaccine Information Statements](#), in the family’s primary language and at the appropriate literacy level; supplement with visual aids or videos if necessary.

Discuss Reasons for Delayed Immunization with Parents

- ✓ Identify any financial barriers and suggest [Vaccines for Children’s Program](#) or other health clinics if appropriate.
- ✓ Offer a flyer of public transit options that are close to the office.
- ✓ If a parent calls for an appointment with one child, offer a block of appointments to see other children in the same family for well-child care or immunization visits.
- ✓ Keep a variety of visual and written information to address vaccine hesitancy at all literacy levels.
- ✓ Ask if any other barriers exist and address them openly. Provide resources when possible.

Resources:

- **AAP/CISP Immunization in a Medical Home Training Tool.** Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/pro/ImmunizationMedicalHome.html or e-mail cispimmunize@aap.org for a copy of the CD-ROM. The CD-ROM targets vaccine providers with limited knowledge of the medical home concept, as well as providers who want to learn strategies to provide immunizations in a medical home.
- **AAP Immunization Dose Counter.** The Immunization Dose Counter provides a handy reference for pediatricians and parents to determine age-appropriate vaccinations for infants, toddlers, and adolescents. The pocket guide features a sliding panel to match the child's age with vaccines due, as well as the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule. This resource is available for the cost of shipping from AAP Customer Service: 866/843-2271.
- **AAP Periodicity Schedule.** Available at: www.aap.org/visit/prevent.htm. AAP guidelines for the periodicity of the well-child visits and the types of screens and health assessments that should be conducted at each visit.
- **Book: AAP and National Perinatal Association. *Transcultural Aspects of Perinatal Health Care: A Resource Guide.*** Shah MA, ed. National Perinatal Association; 2004
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Improving Vaccination Coverage in Children, Adolescents, and Adults. Report on Recommendations from the Task Force on Community Prevention Services.*** Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4808a1.htm.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Providers’ Guide: Helping Parents Who Question Vaccines.*** Available at: www.cdc.gov/nip/vacsafe/parents-question-vacc-hcp.htm#firs
- **CISP Immunization Posters.**
 - ✓ Vintage. Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/mediapgs/VintageFinal.pdf
 - ✓ Breastfeeding. Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/mediapgs/Breastfeeding...pdf





- **Immunization Action Coalition. Artwork and Photography Related to Immunization.** Available at: www.immunize.org/art/
- **Immunization Action Coalition. Free Print Materials.** Available at: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/free.htm>.
- **Immunization Action Coalition. Non-English Materials.** Available at: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/noneng.htm>.
- **Immunization Action Coalition. Standing Orders.** Available at: www.immunize.org/standingorders/.
- **Parent Resources on Paying for Vaccines.** Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/fam/payingforvaccines.html.
- **Strategies for Addressing Concerns of Vaccine Hesitant Parents.** Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/pro/pdf/Vaccine-HesitantParent_Final.pdf.
- **Vaccines For Children Provider Information.** Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/vfc/vfc_prvd.html.
- **Vaccine Information Statements.** Available at: www.cispimmunize.org/pro/vis_home.html.
- **Vaccine Information Statements in over 30 Languages.** Available at: www.immunize.org/vis/index.htm.
- **Videos Available from the Vaccine Education Center (CHOP).** Available at: www.chop.edu
 - ✓ **Vaccines and Your Baby Video-** A parent education video for providers to share information about vaccine preventable illnesses, how vaccines work, and vaccine safety.
 - ✓ **Vaccines: Separating Facts from Fear Video-** A 27-minute video that answers questions many parents have about vaccines. It also contains the stories of several parents whose children suffered vaccine-preventable diseases.

Coming Soon!

Maintaining Standards of Excellence: Part 4
A Series in Support of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee
Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices

Part 4 will address NVAC Standard #4, “Patient costs are minimized.”

Other installments in the series are available at: www.cispimmunize.org/pro/NVACStandards.htm.

