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**PS#69 – Immunization Administration Practices**

This report presents findings from Periodic Survey of Fellows #69 on immunization administration. The survey was initiated by the Committee on Medical Liability and Risk Management (COMLRM) to explore pediatricians' practices regarding the provision and documentation of risk/benefit information for recommended vaccines.

PS#69 was an eight-page self-administered questionnaire sent to a random sample of 1,605 active U.S. members of the AAP. The original mailing and six follow-up mailings to recontact nonrespondents were conducted from March to August 2007. After seven mailings we received a total of 919 completed questionnaires for a response rate of 57.3%.

This report compares 2007 findings with data collected conducted in 2001 (PS#48, N=1622, response=64%). In 2007 and 2001, analyses are limited to 716 and 814 pediatricians, respectively, who provide direct patient care and offer age-appropriate immunizations to all or some of the children in their practice. Findings across years that are significantly different at the .05 level or less are noted; otherwise comparisons are not statistically significant. The following vaccines were included in both 2007 and 2001: Hep B, DTaP/DTP, Hib, IPV/OPV, MMR, Varicella, Prevnar (PCV7), Influenza and Meningococcal. Hep A, Tdap/Td and MMR-V were included on the 2007 survey only.

**Discussing Vaccine Risk/Benefit Information, 2007 and 2001**

There has been little change across years in the proportion of pediatricians who offer vaccines and no change in the proportion who verbally discuss the risks/benefits with every dose of vaccine administered.

- A similar proportion of pediatricians ( $\geq 93\%$ ) in both 2007 and 2001 offer the Hep B, DTaP/DTP, Hib, IPV/OPV and influenza vaccine. However, the proportion who offer the MMR vaccine and Varicella vaccine in 2007 has slightly decreased from 2001 (94% vs 97%,  $p < .05$ ; 94% vs 96%,  $p < .05$ , respectively), while the proportion who offer the Prevnar and Meningococcal vaccine has increased (97% vs 93%,  $p < .01$ ; 93% vs 69%,  $p < .001$ , respectively).
  - In 2007, 91% of pediatricians report they offer Hep A and 95% offer Tdap/TD, while 83% say they offer MMR-V.
- In 2007, as in 2001, about one-half of pediatricians (50%-57%, depending on vaccine) verbally discuss the risks/benefits of all recommended vaccines with every dose administered; about one-fourth (24%-29%) do so at only the first dose, and about one-fifth (16%-21%) do so only sometimes. Fewer than 3% say they never discuss the risks/benefits of a specific vaccine.
  - In 2007, 52% of pediatricians verbally discuss the risks/benefits of Hep A, 54% each discuss Tdap/Td and MMR with every dose; 27%, 25%, 24%, respectively, discuss with first dose only and 20% each discuss only sometimes; fewer than 2% never discuss these vaccines.

**Distributing VIS or Other Written Information, 2007 and 2001**

Distribution of written vaccine information at every dose has increased from 2001 to 2007:

- The proportion of pediatricians in 2007 who say they distribute Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) or other written information at every dose of every vaccine has increased from that reported in 2001 ( $p < .001$ ): 7 out of 10 pediatricians in 2007 (compared to about 6 out of 10 in 2001) report distributing vaccine information with every dose of each vaccine; about 20% in 2007 compared to about 26% in 2001 do so with the first dose only. About 5% in 2007 compared to about 10% in 2001 say they sometimes distribute vaccine information, while 2% compared to 3% never do so.
  - In 2007, for Hep A : 73% of pediatricians say they distribute VIS at every dose, 19% at first dose, 6% sometimes, and 2% never do so. Distribution of VIS for Tdap/Td is 73%, 20%, 5%, and 2%, respectively; for MMR-V, 73%, 20%, 5%, and 2%, respectively, so report.

### **Documenting Provision of VIS or Other Written Information, 2007 and 2001**

Documentation of providing written vaccine information at every dose of every vaccine has increased from 2001 to 2007:

- In 2007, about two-thirds of pediatricians say they document the provision of VIS at every dose of each of the recommended vaccines, up from about 55% so reporting in 2001 ( $p < .01$ ); in both survey years, about 11% say they do so at the first dose only. In 2007, about 11% say they document only sometimes in 2007 compared to 16% in 2001, and about 14% compared to 18% say they never document the provision of VIS.
  - In 2007, for Hep A, 65% of pediatricians document provision of VIS at every dose, 11% each do so at first dose and sometimes, while 14% say they never do so. Similarly, 65%, 11%, 11%, and 13%, respectively, report documenting VIS for Tdap/Td; 65%, 10%, 11%, and 14% report documenting VIS for MMR-V.

### **Documenting Verbal Consent for Vaccine, 2007 and 2001**

There has been no change across survey years in the proportion of pediatricians who say they document parent's verbal consent for vaccines in the patient's record:

- More than one-third of pediatricians (35%-37%) in both 2007 and 2001 say they document the parent's verbal consent for vaccines in the patient's record with each dose of each vaccine and about one-fifth (18%-22%) sometimes do so, while more than 4 out of 10 pediatricians (42%-46%) say they never document verbal consent.
  - In 2007, 36% of pediatricians document verbal consent at every dose, 22% sometimes and 42% never document verbal consent for Hep A vaccine; 36%, 22% and 42%, respectively, document verbal consent for Tdap/Td; 37%, 22%, 41% do so for MMR-V.

### **Obtaining Parent Signature of Vaccine Consent, 2007 and 2001**

There has been a decrease across survey years in the proportion of pediatricians who report they obtain the parent's signature as evidence of consent at every dose of each type of vaccine.

- About 6 out of 10 pediatricians in 2007 compared to 7 out of 10 in 2001 report they obtain the parent's signature as evidence of consent at every dose of each type of vaccine ( $p < .01$ ). About 10% and 8%, respectively say they sometimes obtain the parent's signature, and about 26% of pediatricians in 2007 compared to about 20% in 2001 say they never obtain the parent's signature as consent for the recommended vaccines.
  - In 2007, 63% obtain parent's signature at every dose, 10% sometimes and 27% never do so for Hep A vaccine; 63%, 10%, 26%, respectively, obtain signature of consent for Tdap/Td; and 64%, 10%, 26%, respectively, do so for MMR-V.