

January 15, 2013

**To:** Pharmacists, Local Health Departments (LHDs), Hospitals

**From:** New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Immunization

**HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE #1:  
GUIDANCE FOR PHARMACISTS TO FACILITATE INFLUENZA  
VACCINATION OF CHILDREN AGES SIX MONTHS TO 18 YEARS**

**Please distribute to the Pharmacy Director, Medical Director, Pediatrics Director,  
Obstetrics Director.**

**SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

- New York State (NYS) is currently experiencing high levels of influenza disease throughout the state. In addition, there has been two confirmed pediatric deaths due to influenza disease in the state. For these reasons, and insufficient levels of vaccine, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has declared a "Disaster Emergency" for New York and issued an Executive Order permitting pharmacists to administer influenza vaccinations to patients between six months and 18 years of age through February 11, 2013. The order may be extended for additional 30 day periods if the emergency conditions continue at that time. A copy of the executive order is at: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/executiveorder/90>.
- In addition, due to the severe influenza season and insufficient levels of vaccine, the New York State Commissioner of Health is authorizing use of influenza vaccines containing more than the mercury levels described in Public Health Law (PHL) §2112 in pregnant women and children under age 3. Therefore, vaccine containing any level of thimerosal can be administered to children under age 3 years and pregnant women. For more information go to [http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/providers/2013-01-12\\_thimerosal\\_waiver\\_letter.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/providers/2013-01-12_thimerosal_waiver_letter.htm).
- In order to vaccinate children under 18 years of age pharmacists should be aware of the following:
  - All immunizations given to children 18 years of age and younger must be entered into the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) for those immunizations given outside of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC), or to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) for immunizations given within the five boroughs of NYC. See below for details.
  - Standing orders must be modified or new standing orders must be issued that address and include children. Patient specific orders are also acceptable to immunize children.
  - Influenza vaccine given to children who are enrolled in Medicaid or the New York State Child Health Plus (SCHIP) plan must be ordered from the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).

- Pharmacists administering influenza vaccination to infants and young children should be trained in the administration of vaccines and possible adverse reactions in this age group, and have emergency supplies available including but not limited to epinephrine (e.g. Epi Pen or Epi Pen Jr.). An individual currently certified for infant/child CPR should be present. Pharmacists should also only administer formulations of vaccines to age groups specified by the FDA.

## **IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**As described in PHL §2168, pharmacists must report all immunizations administered to persons less than 19 years of age to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), except for vaccines administered in New York City (NYC), which must be reported to the City Immunization Registry (CIR).**

- Pharmacists who have been providing influenza vaccinations to persons age 18 years should already have NYSIIS or CIR accounts and have been reporting such vaccinations.
- Detailed information about NYSIIS is available at <http://goo.gl/6VE3c>. Similar information about CIR can be found at [www.nyc.gov/health/cir](http://www.nyc.gov/health/cir).
- Instructions on how to begin using NYSIIS can be found at: [http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information\\_system/providers/provider\\_letter\\_training\\_opportunities.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/providers/provider_letter_training_opportunities.htm)
- For assistance obtaining a NYSDOH Health Commerce System Account (HIN/HPN), contact the Commerce Account Management Unit (CAMU) Help Desk at 1-866-529-1890 or [hinhpn@health.state.ny.us](mailto:hinhpn@health.state.ny.us)
- For assistance in obtaining a NYSIIS user account or for assistance with system problems, contact the NYSIIS Help Desk at 1-866-389-0371 or [nysiishelpdesk@eds.com](mailto:nysiishelpdesk@eds.com)

For assistance in obtaining a CIR user account or any other questions please call (347) 396-2400 or go to <http://www.nyc.gov/health/cir>.

## **MODIFIED VACCINE STANDING ORDERS**

The standing order used by pharmacists to provide influenza vaccinations to adults can be modified to include children. Please contact the licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner who provided your adult standing order. The information that must be contained in non-patient specific orders is set forth in the accompanying regulations. See §63.9(5) available at <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pharm/part63.htm#immunization>

- Pharmacists must obtain a written confirmation of the amendment to the standing order by mail, fax or electronically.
- For examples of non-patient specific standing orders for children and/or adolescents, please visit the following website: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074a.pdf>.
- Consent for vaccination of a minor should be given by a parent, legal guardian, a grandparent, an adult sibling, an adult aunt or uncle, any of whom has assumed care of the

minor, or from an adult who has care of the minor and has written authorization to consent from the minor's parent or legal guardian in accordance with PHL §2504(5).

- The same Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) used for adult vaccination may be used for vaccinating children. Vaccine information statements (VIS) for the 2012-13 Influenza vaccine are available at:  
[http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis\\_flu\\_inactive.asp](http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_flu_inactive.asp),  
[http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis\\_flu\\_live.asp](http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_flu_live.asp).

### **OBTAINING VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) VACCINE FOR ELIGIBLE INFANTS AND CHILDREN**

Influenza vaccine is available at no charge to providers that participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC)/New York State Child Health Plus (SCHIP) programs through the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization. **VFC vaccine can only be administered to children less than 19 years of age who qualify in one of the following categories:**

- Medicaid/Medicaid Managed Care enrolled.
  - Uninsured. The patient does not have any health insurance.
  - Underinsured. The patient's insurance does not cover vaccines or does not cover influenza vaccine.
  - American Indian/Alaskan Native.
  - New York State Child Health Plus (SCHIP) enrolled.
- There is no out of pocket expense for a provider to order vaccine for VFC eligible children.
  - **VFC vaccine must not be used for insured or non-VFC children.**

In order to receive VFC vaccines, a VFC enrollment form must be completed and faxed to the NYS Vaccine for Children program at (518)474-4222. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-3836.pdf> or can be obtained by calling 1-800-543-7468.

Some pharmacists may have inactive VFC accounts from the H1N1 vaccination campaign. To find out if that is the case or for questions or assistance, please contact the NYS VFC Program at 1-800-543-7468.

### **OBTAINING VACCINE FOR CHILDREN NOT ENROLLED IN VFC**

Information on purchasing vaccine is available from the Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System at [www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats) or from your usual distributors.

### **INFORMATION FOR PHARMACIES OPERATING IN NEW YORK CITY**

Pharmacists who will be administering influenza vaccine to persons 18 years of age and under are required to report these immunizations to the NYC CIR. Similarly, to obtain VFC vaccine for children in NYC, pharmacists will need to enroll in the NYC VFC program or sign a current provider vaccine recipient agreement form to reactivate a PIN from H1N1.

If you already have an existing PIN number from H1N1 for CIR and/or VFC registration go to: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cir/cir-online-form.shtml> or call (347) 396-2400.

For questions and/or assistance, e-mail [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov) or call (347) 396-2400.

**MEDICAID FEE FOR SERVICE BILLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION FEE FOR VFC INFLUENZA VACCINE**

Enrolled VFC pharmacies must use the administration code of 90460 for VFC flu vaccine for Medicaid Fee for Service enrollees and will receive \$17.85 for each flu vaccine administered. A “1” should be inserted in the quantity field.

<b>Immunization Type</b>	<b>Code for Vaccine</b>	<b>Administration Code- Vaccine for Children Program (VFC)</b>	<b>Medicaid Reimbursement for Administration- Vaccine for Children Program (VFC)</b>
Seasonal Flu	N/A	90460	\$17.85

Questions: Medicaid Billing Assistance: CSC: 1-800-343-9000 or Medicaid Pharmacy Policy: 1-518-486-3209

Information on billing for managed care plan enrollees will be provided in a subsequent update.

**LICENSED INFLUENZA VACCINE AGE RESTRICTIONS**

**Influenza vaccines approved for the 2012-13 season must only be administered according to the FDA approved age groups as indicated in the table below.** Complete vaccine administration information is available through the Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, “The Pink Book”, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, Appendix D  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/appdx-full-d.pdf>

## Seasonal Influenza Vaccines for the 2012-2013 Season

Manufacturer	Trade Name	How Supplied	Mercury Content (mcg Hg/0.5 mL dose)	Age Group
CSL Biotherapies (Distributed by Merck Vaccines)	Afluria	0.5 mL (single-dose syringe)	0	9 years & older
		5.0 mL (multi-dose vial)	24.5	
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Fluarix	0.5 mL (single-dose syringe)	0	36 months & older
ID Biomedical Corporation of Quebec (Distributed by GlaxoSmithKline)	FluLaval	5.0 mL (multi-dose vial)	25	18 years & older
MedImmune	FluMist	0.2 mL (single-use sprayer)	0	2 through 49 years
Novartis Vaccines	Fluvirin	0.5 mL (single-dose syringe)	≤1	4 years and older
		5.0 mL (multi-dose vial)	25	
	Agiflu	0.5 mL (single-dose syringe)	0	18 years & older
sanofi pasteur	Fluzone	0.25 mL (single-dose syringe)	0	6 through 35 months
		5.0 mL (multi-dose vial)	25	6 through 35 months
		0.5 mL (single-dose syringe)	0	36 months & older
		0.5 mL (single-dose vial)	0	36 months & older
		5.0 mL (multi-dose vial)	25	3 years & older
	Fluzone High-Dose	0.5 mL (single-dose syringe)	0	65 years & older
	Fluzone Intradermal	0.1 mL (single-dose microinjection system)	0	18 through 64 years

### Needle length and injection site of IM injections for children aged ≤18 years (by age)

Age group	Needle length	Injection site
<b>Children (birth--18 yrs)</b>		
<b>Neonates*</b>	5/8 inch (16 mm)†	Anterolateral thigh
Infants, 1--12 mos	1 inch (25 mm)	Anterolateral thigh
Toddlers, 1--2 yrs	1—1 1/4 inch (25--32 mm)	Anterolateral thigh§
	5/8†--1 inch (16--25 mm)	Deltoid muscle of arm
Children, 3--18 yrs	5/8†--1 inch (16--25 mm)	Deltoid muscle of arm§
	1--1 1/4 inches (25--32 mm)	Anterolateral thigh

### ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

For any additional assistance administering vaccines to children please contact the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Immunization at 518-473-4437 or [immunize@health.state.ny.us](mailto:immunize@health.state.ny.us), or the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at 347-396-2400 or [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov).