North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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May 5, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) Providers

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Pneumococcal Vaccination for High-risk Patients

The purpose of this memo is to remind medical providers to assess their high-risk adult and pediatric patients to determine if they are appropriate candidates for pneumococcal vaccines. These vaccines can offer additional protection against some complications of influenza, such as pneumonia. This is extremely important in light of the current Novel H1N1 influenza outbreak. Complete information on Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the use of pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV23) and pneumococcal conjugate (PCV7) vaccines can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm

State-supplied PPV23 is available only for high-risk children age 2 through 18 years of age and state supplied pneumococcal conjugate (PCV 7) is available for children > 2 months through 59 months of age who are VFC eligible **and** all underinsured children regardless of where they receive their immunizations. Currently, children whose health insurance covers the full cost of PCV7 are not eligible for state-supplied PCV7. Privately purchased vaccine will need to be used for those patients who are not eligible for these state-supplied vaccines. A current UCVDP coverage criteria listing for all state supplied vaccines, including those for pneumococcal disease, can be found at www.immunizenc.com.

If you have questions regarding pneumococcal vaccines, please contact your Regional Immunization Nurse, or the Immunization Branch Central Office at 919-707-5550. For information regarding the Novel H1N1 influenza outbreak, please consult www.ncpublichealth.com or www.cdc.gov for the latest updates. These websites are updated frequently as new information becomes available.

cc: SMT, Immunization Consultants, Steve Shore, Maclyn Powell, Gregg Griggs, Jessica Gerdes, Joy Reed