



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

February 19, 2009

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Updated Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization would like to remind VFC Program providers of the requirement of using the current Vaccine Information Statements.

During the month of September 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made minor updates to several VISs. Changes could include correcting website addresses of the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VAERS) on some of the older VISs, adding the new statement about the availability of translations, cleaning up fonts that don't print properly, etc. None of these changes affect the mandated purpose of VISs (i.e., to inform parents or patients about the benefits and risks of vaccines). The edition dates on these VISs have not changed, and it is not necessary to replace existing stocks. The affected VISs are anthrax, DTaP, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, Hib, HPV, Japanese encephalitis, pneumococcal conjugate, pneumococcal polysaccharide, polio, rabies, rotavirus, shingles, Tdap, and yellow fever.

The CDC's New Interim Rotavirus VIS

The CDC has posted a new interim rotavirus VIS. The VIS dated 08/28/08 replaces the interim VIS dated 04/12/06, and includes information about the Rotarix® (GSK) vaccine schedule. Providers may use up stocks of the 04/12/06 interim VIS for patients receiving RotaTeq® (Merck) vaccine; however, patients receiving Rotarix® should receive the 08/28/08 interim VIS. The new rotavirus VIS is attached and you may find the VIS on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#rota>.

The CDC's Updated Multi-vaccine VIS

The CDC has posted an updated interim edition of the pediatric multi-vaccine. Providers using the multi-vaccine VIS should begin using the new edition dated 09/18/08 when administering Rotarix®. When Rotarix® is not administered, the older edition may be used until stocks are used up.

Providers may use the multi-vaccine VIS in place of individual VIS whenever routine vaccines for children 0 to 6 months of age (DTaP, IPV, Hib, hepatitis B, PCV, and rotavirus) are administered at the same visit – including combination vaccines (e.g., Pediarix® Comvax®, Pentacel®) containing those components. When using this VIS, please check the boxes on the first page, indicating which antigens are being administered. Note that the multi-vaccine VIS is four pages (front and back), instead of the usual two.

Use of the multi-vaccine VIS is optional. The individual VIS for these vaccines may still be used. The new multi-vaccine VIS is attached and you may find the VIS on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-multi.pdf>.

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The CDC's New Combination Tdap/Td VIS

The CDC has posted a new combination Tdap/Td VIS. The VIS dated 11/18/08 can be used for both Tdap and Td vaccines, and replaces the individual Tdap VIS dated 07/12/06 and the Td VIS dated 06/10/94. Providers may still use the older VIS until stocks are used up. The new Tdap/Td VIS is attached and you may find the VIS on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#tdtdap>.

The CDC's Updated Pneumococcal Conjugate VIS

The CDC has posted a new interim Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV7) VIS. The VIS dated 12/09/08 incorporates the updated recommendations for healthy children two to four years of age, as well as miscellaneous minor changes. Providers are encouraged to begin using this new edition immediately when vaccinating children in this age group to avoid parental confusion, but the older edition may be used until stocks are used up. The new PCV7 VIS is attached and you may find the VIS on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#pcv7>.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) requires all healthcare providers to give a copy of the appropriate VIS to patients, or their parents or legal representatives, before a vaccination is given. The VIS must be the most current VIS available for that vaccine. The provider must record in the patient's chart the date the VIS was given, and the publication date of the VIS, which appears on the bottom of the VIS.

Sufficient time should be allotted to review the VIS and discuss the benefits of the vaccines, the diseases they prevent, any contraindications or possible known risks from the vaccines, and what to expect following the immunization. As needed, providers should supplement VIS orally, with videotapes, with additional printed material, or in any other way that will help recipients understand the disease and vaccine. A contact number should be provided to the parent or legal representative in the event there are questions or medical concerns.

The Florida State Health Online Tracking System (SHOTS) program always links to the current versions of all VISs, so the Florida SHOTS users will have access to these updated VISs immediately.

You may find all available VISs on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm> or the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)'s website at: www.immunize.org/VIS.

Many VISs are available in Spanish and other languages. As new editions are translated, the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) posts them on their website. You may obtain VISs in more than 30 languages on the IAC's website at: www.immunize.org/vis.

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VISs are available in alternative formats (e.g., "text-only", audio, web-video). In addition to pdf files, you may find VIS "text-only" files on the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>. The "text-only" files are screen-reader accessible and are meant to be used with patients with visual impairments. You may find many VISs in audio or web-video format on the IAC's website at: http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_audio.asp.

For the latest information concerning VIS updates, please frequently visit the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/vis-news.htm#all>.

The bureau asks that you provide this information to colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners with an interest in the provision of vaccine. If you have any questions regarding the use of VISs, please contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC Program, please contact Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator, or your VFC Program Representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander, Chief
Bureau of Immunization
Division of Disease Control
Florida Department of Health

CHA/rg/sdh

Enclosures

cc: Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director,
Bureau of Immunization
Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator
Bureau of Immunization
Bureau of Immunization Field Staff