**Revised Monthly Comprehensive Report for Private Providers**

VFC recently added a 19+ Ineligible column to private provider Monthly Comprehensive Reports to assist the program with oversight of doses administered by program eligibility criteria. As a reminder, VFC provides vaccines for patients who meet the following criteria:

- 18 years of age or younger
- Medicaid enrolled
- Uninsured: does not have insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaska Native as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- Underinsured: A child seen in a Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Care (RHC) center who has commercial (private) insurance that does not include vaccine coverage, insurance covers only selected vaccines, or insurance caps have been exceeded. This does not include patients enrolled in high deductible plans where the deductible has not been met.

The Georgia Immunization Program provides VFC enrolled sites the opportunity to administer VFC doses to the following groups through state funding and CDC collaboration with Medicaid:

- Underinsured patients seen in a non-FQHC or RHC
- PeachCare enrolled in one of the 3 eligible CMO’s: Amerigroup, Peach State and WellCare. *Ambetter and CareSource are not currently part of the approved CMO eligibility list for state supplied vaccines.*

Patients who do not meet eligibility criteria are considered private pay or self pay and must receive vaccines from your private supply. For 19+ Medicaid patients, billing staff should be familiar with billing Medicaid for reimbursement. Failure to properly screen patients for eligibility is a violation of the VFC Provider agreement and may result in suspension from the program. For questions regarding eligibility, contact the VFC main office at (404) 657-5013.

**Flu Vaccination: It’s Not Too Late**

The Georgia Department of Public Health Weekly Influenza Report for Week 07 (February 12 — February 18, 2017) reported high influenza-like illness activity in Georgia with widespread occurrences of sustained flu transmission. We know early immunization is the most effective, but it is not too late to get flu vaccine in March or beyond. Annual vaccination against influenza viruses remains the best strategy for preventing illness from influenza. As of early November 2016, only 37% of children aged 6 months–17 years, 37% of adults aged 18–64 years, and 57% of adults aged ≥65 years had received influenza vaccine this season. Among pregnant women, early estimates for 2016–17 indicated that only 47% had been vaccinated by early November 2016. Please continue to encourage your patients to get the flu vaccine.

http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children-program
Vaccine Wastage and Returns Important Reminders

- All wasted and spoiled state supplied vaccine must be returned to McKesson. Only syringes, broken vials and open Multidose vials should be discarded in your sharps container.

- All wasted and spoiled doses must be accounted for in GRITS by modifying the vaccine inventory counts in GRITS using the wastage code which most closely relates to the reason for the wastage.

- Vaccine returns must be processed within 30 days of receiving the return invoice and return label from McKesson.

- Any pending returns that have not been completed need to be resolved ASAP. If you have vaccines sitting in cartons that need to be returned, contact the VFC Program so that we can assist you with completing the returns.

- Returns are not complete until the box is sealed and handed to the UPS driver when he/she stops by. Do not schedule a pick up.

- For more information, review the VFC Return Protocol posted on the GRITS homepage in the resource section.

GRITS Interface : Encounter Pro

Providers making the switch from Encounter Pro to a new EMR must contact a GRITS Business Analyst to test your new interface prior to going live. In the meantime, providers who have not selected a new EMR will be required to manually enter their shot data into GRITS. Important tips to remember when entering shot data:

- Jot down the lot number of the vial being administered and be sure to enter the same lot number into GRITS.

- Failure to enter the correct lot number for doses administered data will negatively affect your vaccine inventory counts and may result in reporting errors.

- Once a new EMR vendor has been selected, contact the GRITS Business Analyst at (404) 463-0808 to set up the required testing prior to your interface going live in production.

- Continue to manually enter doses administered data into GRITS during the testing phase. Once your interface is live, then manual entry will end.

- Your Vaccine Accountability Statement is a good source for determining how well your inventory is being managed both manually and for EMR interfaces. Reports with frequent negative doses is an indicator that there are data entry errors that
Vaccine Lot # 101

Many providers suffer from vaccine administration errors which result in negative doses listed in Column “I” of the Vaccine Accountability Statement. These negatives are due to errors in receiving shipments and keying in doses administered data. Below are a few tips to help eliminate errors related to lot numbers.

- The lot number printed on the invoice and in the Manage Transfer details is the lot number printed on the outside of the vaccine carton.
- When receiving vaccine shipments, compare details on the packing slip to the invoice received with the shipment.
- When accepting transfers in GRITS to update your inventory count, compare the invoice details to the transfer details in GRITS.
- When adding shots administered data to your EMR or by manual entry into GRITS, use the lot number from the invoice/carton/GRITS. Failure to use the correct lot number will prevent the doses from deducting from your inventory counts.

When in doubt, contact VFC or the GRITS Help Desk for guidance which can prevent errors that may suspend your vaccine shipments.

Storage & Handling Tips

It has been brought to our attention that many of our providers are experiencing temperature excursions when making the transition to storing frozen water bottles in their storage units. If possible, freeze water bottles in a secondary break-room freezer prior to placing in the vaccine storage unit. We suggest that you replace ice packs for frozen water bottles on a 1:1 ratio; remove 1 ice pack, replace with 1 frozen water bottle. If space permits, you may also hold on to a few ice packs just to help with regulating temperature.

A similar method applies to water bottles/jugs placed in the vaccine refrigerator, especially if using gallon sized jugs in the area where vegetable bins have been removed. Water jugs should first be placed in a breakroom refrigeration unit allowing them to cool prior to placing in the vaccine storage unit.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Field Staff Changes

The Immunization Program has recently made changes to the coverage areas for field representatives formerly called Immunization Program Consultants (IPC's). Your field representatives are now Immunization Regional Consultants or IRCs. Below is the updated list of regional areas, counties covered and assigned IRC. Please note that 3 regional positions are currently vacant and will be filled in the near future.

Region 1: Rome - Immunization Regional Consultant: Jamie Henley (Newly Hired) 470-249-4160
Bartow, Catoosa, Chatooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield

Region 2: Gainesville – Immunization Regional Consultant: Farrah Machida (470) 891-0511
Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

Region 3: Cobb/Douglas – Vacant - Contact the VFC Program for assistance
Cobb, Douglas, Paulding, Cherokee

Region 4: Fulton/Clayton - Immunization Regional Consultant: Saron Ephraim (404) 387-9369
Fulton, Clayton

Region 5: Gwinnett – Vacant - Contact the VFC Program for assistance

Region 6: DeKalb – Immunization Regional Consultant: Janet Kelly (404) 277-2461
DeKalb, Rockdale, Newton

Region 7: LaGrange – Immunization Regional Consultant: Tina Dempsey (404) 277-6442
Counties included: Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, Fayette, Henry

Region 8: Dublin/Macon – Immunization Regional Consultant: Kelly Duke (404) 277-9414
Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Dodge, Crawford, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Putnam, Telfair, Twiggs, Toombs, Treutlen, Washington, Wheeler, Wilkinson

Region 9: Augusta – IRC: Shelia Fultz (404) 387-5476
Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes

Region 10: Columbus – Immunization Regional Consultant: Kelly Seegmueller (404) 277-3179
Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Early, Harris, Lee, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Upson, Webster, Wilcox

Region 11: Valdosta, Albany – Immunization Regional Consultant: Lisa Jenkins (404) 615-2427
Atkinson, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Worth

Region 12: Savannah, Brunswick, Waycross - Vacant - Contact the VFC Program for assistance
Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnall, Ware, Wayne

Region 13: Athens – Immunization Regional Consultant: Angie Webster (404) 277-8923
Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton

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