

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

FROM: Vincent Sacco, MS 
Immunization Program Manager

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DATE: July 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Expansion of Rotavirus Vaccine

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you that the Immunization Program has received federal stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to expand our childhood rotavirus vaccination efforts. These stimulus funds will be used to expand state supplied rotavirus vaccine to all children regardless of insurance status.

Rotavirus Vaccine

Rotavirus is a leading cause of severe acute gastroenteritis in infants and children. Before the licensure of a rotavirus vaccine in 2006, an estimated 2.7 million infections occurred in the U.S. each year resulting in approximately 55-70,000 hospitalizations among children under five. The Immunization Program has been supplying rotavirus vaccine for VFC-eligible patients since July 2006. As a reminder, the vaccine we currently supply is Rotarix[®] manufactured by Glaxo SmithKline. Rotarix[®] is a two dose series with the first dose administered no earlier than 6 weeks of age and the last dose no later than 8 months of age. There should be at least a 4 week interval between doses. The vaccine must be kept refrigerated between 35 and 46 degrees Fahrenheit. The complete rotavirus guidelines can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5802a1.htm?s_cid=rr5802a1_e

Beginning September 1, 2009 you can begin to order Rotavirus vaccine for all patients 6 weeks-8 months of age in your practice including those with private insurance.

Since the stimulus funding is finite, we will only be able to supply rotavirus vaccine to non-VFC patients for a limited period of time. Once we have exhausted the funds, we will return to supplying rotavirus vaccine to VFC-eligible patients only. We will keep all providers informed as to when we will return to supplying rotavirus vaccine for VFC-eligible patients only. In the meantime, you can begin using state supplied rotavirus vaccine for all patients starting in September.

We are including an updated listing of vaccines provided through the Immunization Program as of September 1, 2009.

As always if you have any questions, please call the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.