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To: Health Insurers and Health Plans

CC: Health Care Providers

From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director
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Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager
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Date: April 1, 2015

Subject: 1) Universal Distribution of Influenza Vaccine for All Children
 Through 18 years of Age
 2) Expanded Availability of Hepatitis A, Tdap, and Varicella
 Vaccine for All Children through 18 Years of Age
 3) Recommendation to Continue Reimbursing for Privately-Purchased
 Vaccines for a Period of Time During this Transition

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is pleased to announce the expanded availability of several state-supplied vaccines for all children through 18 years of age.

Influenza Vaccine

Influenza vaccine (in multiple formulations) will be universally available for all children through 18 years of age regardless of insurance status beginning in the 2015-16 influenza season. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine will be available in the following formulations:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Brand</u>	<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Packaging</u>
Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone®	6 to 35 months	pre-filled syringes
Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone®	6 months and older	10-dose vial
Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone®	3 years and older	single dose vials
GlaxoSmithKline	Fluarix®	3 years and older	pre-filled syringes
MedImmune	Flumist®	2 through 49 years	nasal sprayer

Hepatitis A, Tdap, Varicella Vaccines

Effective April 1, 2015, MDPH is expanding the availability of hepatitis A, Tdap, and varicella vaccines to all children through 18 years of age regardless of insurance status. This expanded availability will now allow providers to use state-supplied vaccine to provide catch-up immunizations for those children who did not receive hepatitis A, Tdap, or varicella vaccinations at the recommended ages. As recommended by the Massachusetts Vaccine Purchasing Advisory Committee (MVPAC), brand choice is available for these vaccines:

<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Hepatitis A	GlaxoSmithKline Merck & Co.	Havrix [®] Vaqta [®]
Tdap	GlaxoSmithKline Sanofi Pasteur	Boostrix [®] Adacel [®]
Varicella	Merck & Co.	Varivax [®] ProQuad [®] (varicella and MMR for children requiring both vaccines)

Insurance Considerations

MDPH is requesting that insurance companies continue to reimburse providers who privately purchased influenza for the 2015-16 influenza season through March 31, 2016. Some providers have already pre-booked their vaccine doses, and we appreciate your consideration during this transition year.

MDPH is also requesting that insurance companies continue to reimburse providers who privately purchased pediatric hepatitis A, Tdap, and varicella vaccines through September 30, 2015. This will allow providers to use their remaining inventory of privately-purchased vaccines.

References

State-supplied vaccine availability for all other antigens and populations remains the same. Please see the attached MDPH *Childhood Vaccine Availability Table* and *Adult Vaccine Availability Table* which are also available at: www.state.ma.us/dph/imm under Vaccine Management.

If you have questions regarding this new policy, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.