

"Hawaii VFC News" is a quarterly publication distributed to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers. Its purpose is to address VFC-related issues, provide general immunization information, and keep you up-to-date with the latest program changes.

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S.O.S. from the Field

Happy Summer! Hope you all have found some time to enjoy the warm weather and bright skies of this carefree season.

A lot of new information has been distributed to the VFC providers in recent months. If the new procedures and requirements have left your office staff feeling a little confused and wayward, fear not. Many others have called to ask for guidance and clarification.

We at the Hawaii VFC Program are here to answer some of the distress signals that

have come across our radar. The content of this summer issue was written based on questions and feedback from the field. We weren't able to cover everything in 2 pages, but it's a good start. We hope this helps to clarify some of the confusion.

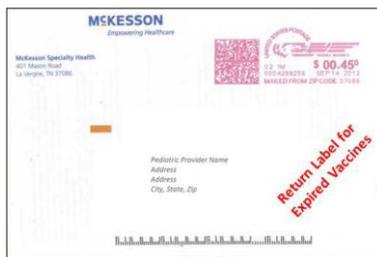
An open call to answer additional questions and encourage dialogue will be held the 4th Tuesday of every month from 12-1pm starting July 23rd. To join the session, call 1-888-482-3560, and then enter the 7-digit access code 5868336, followed by the # key.

New VFC Vaccine Return Procedures

Effective March 2013, expired and spoiled VFC vaccines should no longer be returned to the Hawaii VFC Program.

If you have expired or spoiled VFC vaccines, please complete the Vaccine Loss Reporting Form and fax it to the Hawaii VFC Program at **(808)586-8302**. VFC vaccine losses **MUST** be reported within 6 months of expiration or spoilage.

Following review of the Vaccine Loss Reporting Form, your office will receive a Return label to ship the expired and spoiled vaccines directly to the vaccine distributor (McKesson).



Envelope from McKesson with Return Label Enclosed



Vaccine Return Label

Example: Pentacel

- 49281-0510-05 Outside Box (Pentacel):
- 49281-0545-15 Powder Component (ActHIB):
- 49281-0560-05 Liquid Component (DTaP/IPV):



Products with Multiple NDC Numbers

The only NDC number that can be used to order, report inventory, or to submit vaccine returns is the one printed on the outside of the box.

Vaccines can have multiple NDCs printed on the different vaccine packaging components. For example, NDC 49281-0510-05 appears on the outside box of Pentacel (this is the number that has been included in the Hawaii Immunization Registry for inventory and ordering purposes). The powder component or ActHIB *vial* has an NDC number of 49281-0545-15, and the liquid component DTaP/IPV *vial* has an NDC number of 49281-0560-05. Please ensure that you store vaccines in their original packaging so you have access to the correct NDCs.

Have You HIR'd?

VFC Providers that have been trained in the HIR Vaccine Ordering process have been doing well in submitting their inventory and placing their vaccine orders in HIR. Here are a few "frequently asked questions" that we've received regarding vaccine ordering:



Do I still need to follow the VFC Vaccine Ordering guidelines?

Yes. All VFC providers are expected to submit their vaccine inventory and order (if applicable) by the 15th of every month. Minimally, providers should place vaccine orders no more than once per month. If providers need to place an additional order within the month (e.g., you have run out of vaccine or anticipate running out), contact the Hawaii VFC program before placing the order.

*Note: Refrigerator and freezer temperature logs should be submitted every month. If you do not submit your temperature logs, your vaccine order will not be processed.

Do I need to submit inventory on the same day that I place my vaccine order?

Yes. Once you start recording inventory, you must place your order on the same day. After clicking on "Save and Submit" in the "Record Inventory" module, the "Create Order" button in "Manage Orders" is no longer suppressed and you can place your order. You cannot "Save" your inventory on one day, then "Save and Submit" your inventory the next day, and then place your order.

Talk to the Doc

We inadvertently administered human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) subcutaneously (SC) instead of intramuscularly (IM). Does the dose need to be repeated?

Yes. Because no data exists on the efficacy or safety of HPV vaccine given subcutaneously, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the manufacturers recommend that a dose of HPV vaccine administered by any route other than intramuscular should be repeated. There is no minimum interval between the invalid (subcutaneous) dose and the repeat dose.

It's Federal Law!

You must give your patients current Vaccine Information Statements (VISs). Check your supply of VISs against the list below (current as of July 1, 2013). If you have out-dated VISs, throw them out and call the Hawaii VFC program to request the new VISs. While you're waiting for your new supply, download the current VISs online at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html>.

Chickenpox	03/13/2008	Meningococcal	10/14/2011
DTaP	05/17/2007	Multi-vaccine	11/16/2012
Hib	12/16/1998	PCV13	02/27/2013
Hepatitis A	10/25/2011	PPSV	10/06/2009
Hepatitis B	02/02/2012	Polio	11/08/2011
HPV-Gardasil	05/17/2013	Rotavirus	12/06/2010
MMR	04/20/2012	Tdap	05/09/2013

Is colder better?

No. Colder isn't necessarily better for vaccines. In fact, most refrigerated vaccines that are stored at temperatures that are too cold may have reduced vaccine potency. This is why it's important to maintain proper temperature ranges and storage techniques for ALL vaccines.

Patients who receive vaccine with reduced potency may not be fully protected and should be re-vaccinated with vaccine from the provider's private stock. Re-vaccination can mean extra doses for patients, increased cost for providers, and damage to public confidence in vaccines. It can also be an embarrassment to a provider's practice when staff call parents to inform them that the vaccine their child received wasn't stored properly and they need to return to the clinic to be re-vaccinated.

Common causes of freezing of refrigerated vaccines are vaccines stored on the bottom of the refrigerator (because cold air is dense, it can collect near the floor of the refrigerator), vaccines stored directly under the cold vent, or improper thermometer readings (leading to refrigerator temperature adjustments to below freezing). Avoid these common errors and keep your refrigerated vaccines safe.

If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics or if you would like to share relevant immunization information with other VFC providers through our newsletter, please contact Danielle Vassalotti at 586-8308 (Oahu), 1-800-933-4832 (Neighbor Islands) or e-mail danielle.vassalotti@doh.hawaii.gov.

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