



"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.



Dr. Chunmei Wu receives CDC Immunization Award for Hawaii

Hawaii VFC provider, **Chunmei Wu, MD**, has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award** for Hawaii.

According to CDC, only about half of Hawaii's adolescents aged 13-17 years were up-to-date on their HPV vaccinations in 2017. In comparison, **90% of Dr. Wu's patients have completed the HPV vaccine series.**

"Dr. Wu is regarded as a caring and trusted professional by her patients and her staff," said Alicia Diem, Epidemiological Specialist. "She educates her staff as well as her patients and their families about the importance of **HPV vaccine as cancer prevention** and enlists her staff as partners in championing all immunizations with equal importance."

In partnership with the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) and the American Cancer Society (ACS), CDC established the award program to recognize leaders in healthcare who are going above and beyond to promote or foster HPV vaccination among adolescents in their communities. The *HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention Champion Award* honors up to one champion from each of the 50 U.S. states, 8 U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia.

For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/champions/winner-spotlights.html>.



Dr. Wu's Best Practices

- Check each patient's vaccination status in the electronic health record system the day before a visit to prevent missed opportunities
- Call patients to remind them of upcoming appointments
- Respectfully acknowledge and respond to parent questions and concerns



2019 Hawaii VFC Enrollment Deadline: Jan 31, 2019

Annual enrollment packets were mailed to all VFC provider offices on 12/3/18. If you did not receive or are unable to locate your VFC enrollment packet, please contact the Hawaii Vaccines For Children program at (808) 586-8300, 1-800-933-4832 (Toll-Free), or hawaiivfc@doh.hawaii.gov.

Important Reminders:

- ◆ VFC vaccine ordering privileges will be suspended for providers/facilities that do not submit VFC enrollment information by **January 31, 2019**.
- ◆ Completed forms may be submitted via fax ([808] 586-8302) or mail (Hawaii Department of Health, ATTN: Vaccines for Children Program, P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801).
- ◆ Completed Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) Enrollment and Confidentiality and Security Statements are not required this year due to HIR system unavailability.

Annual Education and Training Requirement



For those providers who are overdue, don't forget to complete the annual education and training on VFC program and vaccine storage and handling requirements to avoid having VFC vaccine ordering privileges suspended.

Note that both your designated VFC Vaccine Coordinator AND backup Coordinator must complete the online training modules:

- Vaccines For Children: <https://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/isd/ycts/mod1/courses/vfc/ce.asp>
- Vaccine Storage and Handling: <https://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/isd/ycts/mod1/courses/sh/ce.asp>

To obtain your Continuing Education Credit and Certificate of Completion, visit the CDC Training and Continuing Education Online website at: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/TCEOnline/>

Submit your Certificates of Completion to the Hawaii VFC Program via fax (808-586-8302) or email (doh.vfc.hawaii@doh.hawaii.gov).

FIGHT HEP A It starts with you

Ask the Doc: Hep A Pre-exposure Prophylaxis



Question:

My patient (aged 10 months) is traveling to Kenya. I know he should receive a MMR vaccine because he is traveling internationally, but does he need pre-exposure prophylaxis for hepatitis A as well, and if so, what should he receive?

Answer:

In November 2018, the ACIP updated the recommendations for use of hepatitis A vaccine for preexposure prophylaxis for international travel. Because hepatitis A vaccine is not licensed for use in children aged <1 year, immune globulin (IG) has historically been recommended for travelers in this age group. However, IG cannot be administered simultaneously with MMR vaccine, which is also recommended for infants aged 6-11 months traveling internationally from the U.S.

ACIP now recommends that hepatitis A vaccine should be administered to

healthy infants aged 6-11 months (indication for off-label use) traveling outside the U.S. to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity (e.g., Kenya). The travel-related dose for infants aged 6-11 months should not be counted toward the routine 2-dose series. Therefore, the 2-dose hepatitis A vaccination series should be initiated at age 12 months according to the routine, age-appropriate vaccination schedule.

Recommendations for preexposure protection against hepatitis A for travelers aged <6 months and aged ≥12 months remain unchanged from previous recommendations, except for the updated dosage of IG where applicable.

For more information, visit: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6743a5.htm?s_cid=mm6743a5_w

HIR 2019 Update

Issues continue with the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) that prevent the Immunization Program from providing our VFC providers with the best possible service. We apologize for this inconvenience and thank you very much for continuing to bear with us. Your use of alternative, paper-based manual systems to request and receive VFC vaccines for eligible clients ensures that VFC vaccine supply to your office is not interrupted, despite our major technical challenges.

Discussions are ongoing with the HIR vendor to establish when the work will

begin on HIR to bring it back online.

Mahalo to all HIR providers and users for your ongoing support and understanding during these difficult times.

For more information, call the HIR Helpdesk at 586-4665 or 1-888-447-1023 (toll-free), or email registryhelp@doh.hawaii.gov.



Vaccine Order Errors

When placing orders for VFC vaccines, please double check to ensure that you have indicated/selected the correct vaccine product. Vaccines are very expensive and we want to avoid sending products in error. Note that many vaccines have multiple brands/options available.

Vaccine Order Errors to Avoid

- Hep A: Havrix (GSK) and Vaqta (Merck)
- MenACWY: Menactra (Sanofi) and Menveo (GSK)
- MenB: Trumenba (Pfizer) and Bexsero (GSK)
- Rotavirus: RotaTeq (Merck) and Rotarix (GSK)

The Help Box

Reminder:

Please note your VFC PIN on all correspondence (fax and email). When faxing, the VFC PIN should be noted on all pages, in the event that pages become separated. Thank you!



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