

Flu Advisory Board (FAB) Conference Call **October 23, 2008 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance:

Courtney McFeters (MDCH); Liz Harton (MDCH); Pat Vranesich (MDCH); Rachel Potter (MDCH); Rob Miller (MDCH); Rosemary Franklin (MDCH); Terri Adams (MDCH)

Members on the Phone:

Carol Legwand (CHM/DMC); Cassandra Burke (MI Health & Hospital Association); Cathy Ostrowski (Spectrum Health); Diane McCagg (MPRO); Dianne Miller (MI Pharmacists Association); Elaine Burns (Rite Aid); Greg Pratt (MI Pharmacists); Heather Richmond (MedImmune); Holly Katsaros (Novartis); Jacquelyn Coleman (MDCH); James McCurtis (MDCH); Jan Arsenault (MDCH); Jennifer Rihtarchik (Sanofi Pasteur); Jerry Sosin (CSL Biotherapies); Jim Mathews (NU Factor); Jim Szyskowski (Kroger); JoEllen Wolicki (MDCH); Julie Vaishampayan (Oakland County LHD); Kay Renny (VNA); Laurel Butterfield (Cooney Waters); Leonard Pollack (Henry Ford Health System); Lisa Ailstock (Kalamazoo College); Lisa Pope (Spectrum Health); Pat Krehn (Muskegon Co. HD); Sandro Cinti (U of M); Sue Schryber (Ottawa County LHD); Susan Bass (IHA of Ann Arbor); Susan Vagasky (MDCH); Talat Danish (Wayne Co. HD); Tawnya Simon (Saginaw County LHD); Teresa Holtrop (MI AAP); Therese Smith (Blue Cross/Blue Shield)

Welcome

Courtney McFeters

- Welcome to everyone – especially our new FAB members
- Recently we sent out an appeal for FAB members and we increased our membership by 32%!

Manufacturers/Shipping Updates/Other Updates as Requested

MedImmune

- All doses have been distributed – private stock and VFC stock
- Collaborated with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to create a PSA on flu awareness for parents: <http://www.aap.org/pressroom/aapr-flupsa.htm>

sanofi pasteur

- Majority of flu doses have been shipped to McKesson
- There were some issues getting VFC doses to providers on time – they should be receiving their flu vaccine now
- Faces of Influenza PSAs now playing on prime time TV

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)

- Plenty of product is still available
- 2008-09 adult doses only; expecting pediatric doses to be approved for the 2009-10 season (not sure what age group this product will be approved for)

CSL Biotherapies

- Shipped all mercury-free doses and vials
- Launched new website: www.mercuryfreefluvaccine.com
- Flu Free and Mom-To-Be Program: www.healthywomen.org

Novartis

- Shipped all pre-booked doses; more is available
- Weekly Reader program is being rolled out this week

Roche

- No report

Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) Coverage of LAIV (FluMist)

Patricia Vranesich

- MDCH doesn't bill private insurance, however we have received many questions from LHDs and providers regarding LAIV coverage through BCBS
- Pat Vranesich worked with Susan Bass from IHA and Heather Richmond from MedImmune on this issue
- LAIV is covered by BCBS, however certain employer groups (especially those in the automotive industry) are not covering LAIV
- Insurance plans that do not have immunization coverage are also not covering LAIV (those children less than 19 years would be eligible for VFC)
- There are pockets in the Detroit area where LAIV is not covered

BCBSM CHANGES continued from Page 7

Code and Description	BCBSM Changes to: Basic Benefit Policy + Group Variations Payment Policy (for Michigan providers) + Guidelines
NEW PAYABLE PROCEDURES <i>continued</i>	
*90473 Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; one vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid)	Basic Benefit Policy Effective Sept. 19, 2007, the intranasal flu vaccine (live, attenuated influenza vaccine-LAIV) is payable when given to healthy patients between ages 2 and 49 in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. Payable only to an M.D. or D.O.
*90660 Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use	Group Variations Not a contract benefit for Chrysler, Continental (formerly Siemens), MPERS, State of Michigan and TRW. Also, not payable for groups without immunization benefits.

Flu Vaccine Storage and Handling Issues

Terri Adams

- Vaccine storage and handling has been an ongoing concern for MDCH, especially during flu season when many community clinics are being held and vaccine is being transported more frequently.
- MDCH promotes the guidelines used in the [CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)
- MDCH has discussed developing a handout on some of the steps that providers need to consider to conduct community outreach clinics in Michigan
- Common issues that MDCH often hears about include (see responses to common issues below):
 - Clinics being conducted over the weekends when the main office isn't open and public health nurses storing vaccine in their home refrigerator
 - Storing the vaccine in a zip lock bag
 - Pre-filling syringes
- These are not practices that are promoted by MDCH and community clinics should be concerned about:

- Home refrigerators - there are so many different types and models
 - If there is a single control for temperature, it frequently is set too cold to keep the freezer cold
 - Storage of vaccine in drawers or on doors
 - Thermometer is not certified, or adequate for monitoring
 - "Food and beverages should not be stored in a vaccine storage unit because this practice results in frequent opening of the door and destabilization of the temperature."
- Storing the vaccine in a zip lock bag
 - This is not good practice since it promotes moisture and condensation. Vaccines need adequate air flow.
- Pre-filling syringes prior to a flu clinic
 - This practice is discouraged by MDCH, as it wastes many flu vaccine doses. Any pre-filled syringes left at the end of day should be discarded.
- Vaccine Storage Basics
 - Keep the refrigerator/freezer plugged in and cold
 - Keep vaccines protected from light
 - Do not allow vaccine to expire
 - Transport vaccines correctly
- Resource: www.aimtoolkit.org → Vaccine Storage and Resources

Using Appropriate Needle-Lengths

Terri Adams

- There has been some concern from providers and local health departments about the length of the needle included with the Novartis pre-filled syringe presentation
- This was discussed at the Association of Immunization Managers conference call in September
- Many states share these same concerns about needle length
- On 9/29/08, Dr. Jeannie Santoli sent a response to this concern:
 - CDC confirmed with Novartis that the pre-filled syringe on CDC's contract (NDC # 66521-0111-01) contains a 25 G x5/8" staked needle (permanently affixed to the syringe)
 - This needle length is the recommended length for children and adults less than 130 lbs, as noted in the ACIP General Recommendations
 - When possible, CDC encourages the use of this presentation in children and adults less than 130 lbs
 - However, the Novartis pre-filled syringe presentation is licensed for use in persons aged 4 years and older, regardless of weight, and can be used that way if there is not other vaccine available as a substitute
 - Close attention to administration technique is critical if this presentation is used for a person weighing more than 130 pounds to assure that the vaccine is injected into the muscle and not into subcutaneous tissue.
- Pre-filling syringes prior to a flu clinic is discouraged. Any pre-filled syringes left at the end of day should be discarded.
- Flu vaccine is to be given IM and typical needle length is 1 inch.
- Most agencies require a safety syringe to be used and MDCH encourages this.
- Michigan's VFC program did not order this product.
- Resources Available on www.aimtoolkit.org

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Flu Update

Terri Adams

- 219,000 total flu doses ordered for VFC program (25,000 doses were FluMist)
 - Ordered many different presentations but only 2 products – FluMist and Fluzone
- 100% of the flu orders have been entered into our system and sent to McKesson
- Providers should be receiving flu vaccine as we speak
- MDCH is still waiting on 5% of the sanofi Pasteur product
- There were some technical issues with CDC and McKesson's software this year – MDCH has done everything they can to get the orders entered

New England Journal of Medicine Article on 2 for 1 Protection

Courtney McFeters

- On September 17, 2008 NEJM published an article entitled, "Effectiveness of Maternal Influenza Immunization in Mothers and Infants."
- This project was called the "Mothers' Gift" project
- The purpose of this study was to assess clinical effectiveness of inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV or the "flu shot") administered during pregnancy
- The study was conducted in Bangladesh, where 340 mothers were assigned to receive either TIV/the flu shot or the Pneumococcal vaccine.
- Results demonstrated a 2 for 1 protection with flu vaccination of pregnant mothers, in that by vaccinating the mother, you also get substantial protection for the infant
- Specific findings included:
 - Fewer cases of laboratory confirmed influenza among infants of mothers who received flu vaccine verses those infants in the control group, with a vaccine effectiveness of 63% in those infants.
 - Flu vaccination averted 1/3 (reduction of 36%) of all febrile respiratory illnesses in mothers and young infants
- Immunization of pregnant women with TIV has been recommended in the U.S. for more than a decade and by the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2005.
- This study provides additional scientific support for the recommendation to vaccinate pregnant women both for their own protection, as well as protection of their infants.
- A new campaign entitled, "Flu Free and a Mom-to-Be" is available through the National Women's Health Resource Center. For more information on this campaign, visit: www.healthywomen.org

Flu Gossip/Questions and Answers

- Theresa Holtrop mentioned that Children's Hospital in Detroit already has three kids in ICU that have been hospitalized from the flu
 - Susan Vagasky (MDCH Flu Epidemiologist) followed-up with Children's Hospital and their virology lab reports that it may be possible that some rapid tests were positive, but nothing has been culture-confirmed in their lab yet this year. They will keep an eye out for their first culture-positives and contact MDCH when they get one.
 - Currently, there are no culture-confirmed cases of influenza in the state.

- Issues were raised about the importance of vaccinating post-partum mothers (with flu and Tdap) but not many hospitals are offering vaccines post-partum due to money issues and not getting the vaccines covered
 - Some hospitals have raised money through donations to cover the cost of these vaccines

Education & Communication Update

2008-09 Seasonal Flu Campaign

Courtney McFeters

- The MDCH influenza website has received a face-lift and flu staff has given the site a fresh, new look.
- We held a mini competition in the Division of Immunization to come up with this year's campaign slogan.
- The winner was MCIR Epidemiologist, Kyle Enger, who created the theme, "Flu Vaccine: For Every One, Every Year."
- This year's theme focuses on the importance of vaccinating the entire community against influenza, in order to protect those that are most vulnerable, with special efforts made this year to vaccinate school-aged children 6 months through 18 years of age.
- These are all available for your use. If you would like to place this button on your website with a link to the www.michigan.gov/flu website, please contact me and I can help you do that.
- This is a great way to get your partners and customers visiting the MDCH website, which is much improved and has a wealth of information available on it.

MDCH Flu Website Reorganization

Courtney McFeters

- A wealth of materials are available on this website and targeted messages/websites are available for:
 - Health professionals
 - Community vaccinators
 - Individuals and families
 - Businesses and the workplace
 - Schools and daycares
 - Clinical laboratories
- Please visit www.michigan.gov/flu and click on "seasonal" to view some of these wonderful resources today! Also, many of these links are included in FluBytes.

"Why Flu Vaccination Matters?" YouTube Video

Courtney McFeters

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Families Fighting Flu (FFF)
- This powerful six and half-minute video, created by CDC and FFF features the personal stories of parents who have tragically lost or nearly lost a child to the flu.
- The video intertwines the stories of these parents with the facts about influenza as explained by Dr. Jeanne Santoli, Deputy Director of the National Center for

Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC and was directed by Emmy award-winning Mustapha Khan.

Faces of Influenza

Laurel Butterfield

- Detroit will have another event this year
- Kristi Yamaguchi is the national spokesperson
- Local media tours throughout the season as well as later in the season (promoting NIVW and vaccination into December and beyond)
- www.facesofinfluenza.org

Vaccinating Health Care Personnel against Influenza

Courtney McFeters

- Joint Commission Resources, Flu Vaccination Challenge
 - Running September 2008 and will continue through the flu season until May 2009
 - Hospitals that achieve a vaccination rate of 43 percent or more will be recognized for their dedication to helping keep their employees healthy and helping to protect their patients
 - Featured for several weeks in FluBytes. Sign up your organization today!
 - Visit www.FluVaccinationChallenge.com
- Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel
 - If you're not sure where to start, utilize the FFK!
 - Available online, the kit offers a step-by-step approach, including ready-to-use materials such as planning templates, a campaign calendar and timeline, and flu educational resources to help you reach everyone in your health care organization.
 - Remember, anyone who shares air with patients should be vaccinated against influenza.
 - The FFK was featured on the National Influenza Vaccine Summit Website
 - Currently up-to-date for the 2008-09 flu season
 - Available at www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit

Other MDCH Flu-Related Education and Outreach

Courtney McFeters

- Letters from Medical Director
 - Target: Approximately 1,500 birthing hospitals, infection control, occupational health, etc.
 - Topics: Flu vaccination for HCP and use of FFK (August 2008) and VPDs and HCP vaccination (August or September 2008)
- Brochures Available
 - "Keep Your Family Safe from the Flu" and "Diabetes and Flu"
 - Available at www.healthymichigan.com
 - 13,725 diabetes/flu brochures distributed last season
 - Also new "Vaccine Safety" brochure available

