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Six Oklahoma Clinics Reach 2020 Healthy People Goal for Childhood Immunizations

Congratulations to the following Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers for surpassing the goal of 80% of children 19 through 35 months of age up-to-date with the primary series of childhood vaccines (4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 HepB, 1 varicella, and 4 PCV).

- Cushing Medical Specialists – 86%
- Utica Park Clinic Cleveland – 100%
- The Pawnee Clinic – 83%
- Pawnee Indian Health Service – 97%
- Lake Area Medical Associates – 85%
- Northern Oklahoma Regional Pediatric Clinic – 90%

Northern Oklahoma Regional Pediatric Clinic serves 421 children in this age group and enters immunizations on all their children, both VFC eligible and children with private insurance, into the Oklahoma State Immunization Information System (OSIIS). Every three months they review the “Missing Immunizations” report provided by their Immunization Field Consultant, Stephanie Brown. Using this report, staff determines if there are shots given elsewhere that need to be recorded in OSIIS, children who need to be recalled for vaccines, or children who have moved and should no longer be on the list.

Requirements for New VFC Providers Effective Now

Prior to submission of the VFC New Provider Enrollment Packet providers must identify a Primary and a Back-up Vaccine Coordinator. These Coordinators must complete the three online training modules listed below:

- Vaccine Storage and Handling,
- Vaccines For Children (VFC), and
- Understanding the Basics: General Recommendations on Immunization.

This training is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at no charge as part of *Immunization: You Call The Shots*, which is an interactive web-based self-study program consisting of a series of modules covering all aspects of immunization.

It is strongly recommended that all staff involved with receiving, storing, or administering vaccines complete the first two modules. This includes staff at the front desk who may be responsible for receiving vaccine shipments. The course is available on the CDC Vaccines and Immunizations website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.htm>.

Refrigerate Vaccines upon Delivery

Vaccines worth thousands of dollars can be ruined if they are not properly stored upon delivery. All staff members (including non-medical staff, e.g., receptionists and other front desk personnel) who may be involved in vaccine deliveries must be aware of the importance of maintaining the vaccine cold chain. They should be trained to immediately notify the Primary or Back-up Vaccine Coordinator when deliveries arrive and ensure that vaccines and diluents are properly stored in a timely manner. A simple sign posted at the front desk can remind staff to do this and as staff changes over time the sign can remain to remind new staff.

Vaccine Delivery?
Contact Vaccine Coordinator
Immediately

Medicare Now Covers PCV13 Vaccine for Adults 65 Years of Age and Older

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued updated information on Medicare coverage of pneumococcal vaccination for adults age 65 years and older. The information is available at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9051.pdf>.

For an online version of this *Update*, visit the Immunization Service web page at:

http://www.ok.gov/health/Disease_Prevention_Preparedness/Immunizations/Vaccines_for_Children_Program/index.html