

Rhode Island Vaccine Advisory Committee, VAC

Friday, April 10, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Lange, MD, Sara Fessler, MD, Richard Ohnmacht, MD, Nathan Beraha, MD, Dinusha Dietrich, MD, Gail Skowran, MD, Boris Skurkovich, MD,

HEALTH: Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, Ailis Clyne, MD, Tricia Washburn, Pat Raymond, Denise Cappelli, Mark Francesconi, Kathy Marceau, Sue Duggan-Ball, Barbara McNeilly, Kim Salisbury-Keith

Guests: Michael Goldstein, Dorethy Miller, Kristen Svenson, Jessica Loftus, Guiliana DiGioacchino, Kayla Fitzgerald, Marina Rose, Sherry Schilb, Joe Costello, Brittany Hiffman, Rick Aceto

Open Meeting/Old Business

Dr. Lange opened the meeting and asked for and received approval of October 2014 meeting minutes. The committee congratulated Nicole Alexander- Scott, MD, MPH, newly designated Director of HEALTH.

Vaccine Advisory Adult Subcommittee Updates

Gail Skowran, MD provided update on the VAC Adult sub-committee January 2015 meeting. CMS no longer allows vaccine reimburses for Medicare-fee-for-service (MFFS) patients. Providers have the option to buy vaccines privately or order from the SSV program and

reimburse HEALTH. There is concern that fewer Medicare FFS patients are being vaccinated for flu this season. Reimbursement issues place a barrier on getting patients into their medical homes. MFFS patients are being referred to pharmacies for vaccinations, pharmacies are required to report immunization data to the primary care provider within 14 days and then the provider needs to manually data enter to the EMR.

HEALTH Updates

Going forward the SSV program will allow providers to pre-book vaccines without identifying patients as Medicare FFS. SSV will purchase vaccine from a non CDC contract. Providers will identify MFFS patients during weekly flu reporting of doses administered, and be billed on what was administrated after the fact. No need to separate inventory. This was a suggestion made by Caroline Troise, MD at the VAC Adult subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Beraha noted that all flu products have different NDC numbers. EMR's should be linking new vaccines to both CVX and CPT codes. Walgreen's sends direct messaging into the EMR. All pharmacies need to enhance communicate with EMR's

Dr. Skowran noted an uptick in Flu B cases, 74% is Yamagata strain and vaccine is showing 45% efficacy.

An HPV grant supported public health campaign will begin by July and an HPV reminder/ recall initiative utilizing immunization data from KIDSNET will begin sometime in May. Information will be circulated

to providers through Health Connections and the SSV Advisory.

Dr. Clyne read an email from a parent opposed to the HPV school requirement. HEALTH is crafting a response. Dr. Deitrich finds the new requirement helpful; it gives parents who are on the fence a reason to agree to having their children vaccinated. Dr. Beraha informs parents that 20% of this population report non-consensual sex and links the importance of getting this vaccine for prevention. Dr. Fessler stated that a parent with a child in the Bristol Warren district received a school vaccine reminder that did not mention the HPV vaccine. HEALTH annually sends all school nurses an updated reminder form with all required school entry vaccines to be used for parent mailing. There are anti vaccine messages appearing on Facebook in this school district and in Coventry as well.

The SNT conference addressing immunization is being held on May 20th. Physicians are invited to attend the conference, invitation attached.

**HEALTH presentation of ACIP Recommendations February 2015
See attached Power Point and MenB handout.**

Members voted to add HPV9 to the SSV inventory.

Providers are asked to not delay HPV vaccination in anticipation of HPV9, but to be cautious about HPV 4 ordering and inventory

on-hand with a transition to HPV9; HPV 9 will be available after July 1st. Dr. Lange asked that we wait to make vaccine transition plans.

The ACIP have made MenB recommendations for special populations with two possible MenB vaccines – Bexsero and Trumemba. ACIP is expected to discuss MenB routine use recommendations at their June meeting. If vaccine is to be made available for July, HEALTH needs to calculate ordering numbers before June. HEALTH assesses insurers and needs to give a six month notice to change assessment cost. Members requested more MenB data before making recommendations. Suggestion was made to hold an adhoc meeting to present both MenB products.

Legislation Update

Legislators submitted a bill to remove the vaccine religious exemption certificate for school entry. One for advocate spoke for the bill (Medical Society) and ten against (ACLU) and community members. The bill has been held for further study.

Next VAC Meeting TBD