EPIC® Educating Physicians in their Communities INSIDER

Volume 2, Issue 4 April 2012

Mark Your Calendars:

GPNA/GPPMA Spring Meeting
April 20, 2012
Macon, GA

National Infant Immunization Week
April 23-28, 2012

CDC and Emory University schedule "Epidemiology in Action" course for June 11–22 in Atlanta

IAC Express #984

CDC published Announcements: Epidemiology in Action Course in the March 16 issue of *MMWR* (page 178). The announcement states that CDC and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University are cosponsoring a course titled Epidemiology in Action. The course, designed for state and local public health professionals, is scheduled for June 11–22 at Emory University, Atlanta.

CDC website posts presentation slide sets from the February ACIP meeting

IAC Express #984

The CDC website recently posted the PowerPoint slide sets presented at the February 22–23 ACIP meeting.

ACIP Provisional Tdap Recommendation

On February 22, 2012, the ACIP voted to recommend tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) for adults aged 65 years and older. This recommendation will be sent to the Director, CDC and if approved, will be published in the MMWR as an official CDC recommendation.

Two Tdap vaccines are licensed in the United States.
• **Boostrix** (GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Rixensart, Belgium) is approved for use in persons aged 10 years and older.
• **Adacel** (Sanofi Pasteur, Toronto, Canada) is approved for use in persons aged 11 through 64 years.

Updated recommendation
• For adults aged 19 years and older who previously have not received a dose of Tdap, a single dose of Tdap should be given.
• Tdap should be administered regardless of interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.
• Adults should receive a Tdap dose if the dose is recommended and no record of previous administration exists.

Guidance on use of Tdap products for adults aged 65 years and older
• Providers should not miss an opportunity to vaccinate persons aged 65 years and older with Tdap, and may administer the vaccine that they have available.
• When feasible, for adults aged 65 years and older, Boostrix should be used; however, either vaccine product administered to a person aged 65 years and older provides protection and is considered valid.

SHANRITA MCCLAIN
EPIC PROGRAM COORDINATOR
404-881-5054
smcclain@gaaap.org

SANDRA YARN, RN, BSN, CHES
EPIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR
404-881-5081
syarn@gaaap.org

Report from American Academy of Microbiology aims to raise public awareness of the value of adult vaccination

IAC Express #984

The American Academy of Microbiology (AAM) recently published a 16-page report titled *FAQ: Adult Vaccines: A Grown Up Thing to Do*. Intended for the public, the report explains how vaccines protect people from disease, what vaccination options are available to adults, and why adults need to stay up to date on vaccines—to protect their health and the health of their loved ones. (http://academy.asm.org/images/stories/documents/FAQ_Adult_Vaccination.pdf)

A trifold brochure that explains the report and summarizes some information about adult vaccination is available for healthcare professionals to download for use at their office or workplace. http://academy.asm.org/images/stories/Brochure.pdf

The report is based on the work of a colloquium of 18 experts that AAM organized to consider and answer some of the most frequently asked questions about vaccines for adults. It provides non-technical, science-based answers to questions many people have regarding immunization. Additional information about the report is available. http://academy.asm.org/index.php/colloquium-program/faq-series/409-adultvaccinesfaq?utm_source=aam&utm_medium=outreach&utm_campaign=2012

CDC advises providers to use all the schedules and footnotes in the 2012 U.S. Childhood Immunization Schedule

CDC is advising vaccination providers to use all three pages of the 2012 U.S. Childhood Immunization Schedule as a single, cohesive document. That is, the three schedules and footnotes that make up the 2012 document should be used together, not separately.

To help providers do this, CDC has combined all three schedules and footnotes into a 4-page document titled Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years—United States, 2012

U.S. Travelers to Olympics May Bring Home Measles, CDC Warns

USA Today (03/20/12) Weise, Elizabeth

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is worried about the potential for a measles outbreak caused by unvaccinated U.S. travelers attending the Summer Olympics in London and the Euro 2012 soccer cup in Poland and Ukraine. Last year, there were 26,000 cases of measles and eight related deaths in Europe. Although the spread of measles was stopped in the United States in 2000 as a result of vaccination, the number of cases has been on the rise, and officials are urging travelers to ensure their immunizations are up to date. Greg Wallace, a measles specialist in the CDC's division of viral diseases, says at least 214 measles cases were imported last year, and 30 percent required hospitalization. The CDC has a Web page for Americans planning overseas travel.

GSK Seeks Approval for Quadrivalent, H5N1 Flu Vaccines
CIDRAP (03/06/12)

GlaxoSmithKline has submitted licensing applications to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a new application to European regulatory authorities for its quadrivalent influenza vaccine. The vaccine is indicated for adults and children ages three years and up. Because it is difficult to decide which of the two influenza B strain lineages to include in each seasonal flu vaccine, experts have proposed quadrivalent vaccines to simplify the process. This allows officials to recommend influenza B strains from both Yamagata and Victoria lineages. The FDA approved the first quadrivalent flu vaccine on Feb. 29: an inhaled live attenuated influenza vaccine developed by MedImmune and modeled after FluMist. GSK also submitted an FDA application for its H5N1 avian influenza vaccine, which already received E.U. approval under the brand name Pumarix.

Bloomberg News

Pfizer Says Study Backs Use of Top Vaccine in Older Children

By Drew Armstrong on March 12, 2012

Pfizer Inc. (PFE)'s vaccine Prevnar 13, used to prevent pneumococcal diseases, was effective in children ages 5 to 17 in a study that may help increase its use, the company said.
Pfizer has been seeking to increase sales of Prevnar 13 by expanding use beyond the approved groups of children 6 months to 5 years and adults older than 50. The treatment was New York- based Pfizer's third-best-selling medicine in 2011, with $3.66 billion in revenue. It will be Pfizer's top product in 2013, according to an average of two analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

"We are excited about the potential to further define the clinical utility of Prevnar 13 with the aim of seeking to broaden prevention efforts to additional age groups," said Emilio Emini, chief scientific officer of vaccine research for Pfizer. The study examined 598 patients ages 5 to 17 years old.

Pneumoccocal diseases are most dangerous for the very young and very old, as well as people with heart and lung diseases, diabetes, or HIV, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Among children older than 5, the most likely to benefit from the vaccine are those with conditions that put them at more risk from illnesses, like heart and lung concerns, diabetes, or HIV, said Robert Frenck, director of clinical medicine at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and lead author of the study.

Along with expanded approvals, Pfizer is seeking to have Prevnar 13 added to the CDC's vaccine schedule for people over 50.

Free immunization training guide

A training guide is available from the AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program. It is designed to educate and properly train all pediatric office staff in all aspects of immunizing your practice's patients. Covered topics include financing, supply, and ordering; storage and handling; communicating with parents about vaccines; and more.

http://www2.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/trainingguide.html