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IMMUNIZATION UPDATES - July/August 2012
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1. Celebrating Immunization Awareness Month 2012

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This is a great time to collaborate with community organizations in your immunization education efforts. We encourage all clinics to promote IAM by placing articles in local papers, host various events, promote increased knowledge of immunizations through social media, etc. The goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations that are recommended during the entire lifespan of an individual. Within the DoD we often focus on the immunization needs of our deployed Service members and the immunizations required for children to attend school; but no matter the age or occupation, immunization health should be maintained throughout one's lifetime. DoD's aim is to provide comprehensive immunization health care in an effort to prevent illness in military beneficiaries, retirees, and employees; educating them on all immunizations they may need. Immunizations continue to change and new vaccines are released each year, so it is important for healthcare providers to continue to share this important health information.

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/default.htm

http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/PDFs/AugustNH0toolkit.pdf

2. Back to School for Adults

As families prepare their children for the upcoming school season, it is a great time to provide information on adult immunizations. Often our adults forget that they need to keep their immunizations up to date as they age. Many different factors can impact what immunizations they may need, from travel to chronic disease diagnosis. To learn more about adult immunizations and materials for your clinics --

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center

<http://www.chop.edu/export/download/pdfs/articles/vaccine-education-center/vaccines-adults.pdf>

CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/adults.htm>

3. FDA licenses MenHibrix vaccine

On 14 June 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of the vaccine MenHibrix developed by GlaxoSmithKline. MenHibrix is a combination vaccine for infants and children ages 6 weeks through 18 months, for prevention of invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups C and Y and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. Diseases caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcal disease) and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib disease) can be life-threatening. These bacteria can infect the bloodstream causing sepsis, and the lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord causing meningitis. In young children, *Neisseria meningitidis* and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b are important causes of bacterial meningitis.

Without vaccination, children younger than two years are susceptible to these serious illnesses. Meningococcal and Hib diseases are particularly dangerous because both diseases often progress rapidly and can cause death or serious, long-lasting health consequences such as blindness, mental retardation, or amputations. Early symptoms for both diseases often are difficult to distinguish from other common childhood illnesses.

The vaccine is a four-dose series administered at 2, 4, 6, and 12 through 15 months of age. The first dose can be given as early as six weeks of age and the last as late as 18 months of age.

http://www.vaccines.mil/Package_Insert/Haemophilus_B

4. MILVAX Training Opportunities

Immunization Basic Course

Landstuhl RMC, Germany
3 Aug 12

Camp Pendleton, CA
17 Sep 12

<http://www.vaccines.mil/ibc>

Immunization Leaders Course

Landstuhl RMC, Germany
31 Jul - 2 Aug 12

Joint Base Andrews, MD
14-16 Aug 12

Camp Pendleton, CA
18-20 Sep 12

<http://www.vaccines.mil/ilc>

For a complete description of all the courses offered by MILVAX please see the MILVAX website and check out the many education opportunities that are available within Immunization University.

<http://www.vaccines.mil/training>

5. Upcoming Conferences

Illinois Immunization & Communicable Disease Conference
30-31 July 2012
Normal, IL

<http://www.ipha.com/Public/Events/EventDetails.aspx?eventId=185>

6. Crossword Puzzle: Test your immunization knowledge!

<http://www.vaccines.mil/crossword>

Military Vaccine Agency
<http://www.vaccines.mil>
<http://www.smallpox.mil>
<http://www.anthrax.mil>

(877)GET-VACC
<mailto:vaccines@amedd.army.mil>

Please feel free to pass this message on to your colleagues. To add or remove your name from this mailing list, please click here - <http://www.vaccines.mil/listserv>