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May 4, 1994

MEMORANDUM

MAY - 4 REC'D

TO: Carol Rasco

FR: Sara Rosenbaum

RE: Immunization update

Sorry to have missed the past several meetings; end of the year at the University, travel and drafting work have swamped me.

At this point there are two major issues I am monitoring on the immunization front:

- Operations manual and state training: I have asked the CDC and Jo Buford to please send me the draft program manual and to let me know about the state training sessions. I am going to try to go to at least the Boston or Atlanta sessions to gauge state reaction. Is it possible for me to travel down to the meetings? This travel was not built into my budget. If no travel is possible then I will simply review the manual.
- Contracts: the manufacturer contract bids are due in about now. I am following this closely to determine if there are problems.
- Universal states: I am also closely watching the 12 states that now do universal purchase and delivery. They continue to be upset about the reporting their providers will have to do under the law. The Act requires that physicians screen families for eligibility for the federal vaccines. The doctors in the universal states are rebelling, because in universal states they do not have to ask anyone anything -- all children are eligible for vaccines. I am trying to work with HHS to come up with a way to accept estimates of federal eligibility in these states and leave the doctors alone.
- Provider participation: the success of this program turns on getting private providers to participate and vaccinate in their offices. It is apparent to me that state health agencies are not spending enough time on private provider outreach and involvement. The health agencies if anything are unhappy that we are trying to get private physicians involved. I am trying to work with the department on this problem as well.
- The delivery and reporting systems: Everything appears to be in place for the actual delivery and reporting systems, but I am keeping an eye on this as well.



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MESSAGE: