



Central California Pediatrics

MARCH 2019

Specialty information for physicians who treat children and expectant mothers

Changes in Recommended Immunization Schedules



Carmela Sosa, MD
Pediatrics

Dr. Carmela Sosa is medical director of Valley Children's Primary Care Group and a board certified complex care pediatrician.

From environmental laws to health regulations, 2019 has brought changes and updates to a variety of areas, and immunization recommendations are no exception.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) releases new or revised recommendations for vaccines annually. The 2019 schedule changes, approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, ACIP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), affect hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccines.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccination (HepA) continues to be routinely recommended for children 12 to 23 months old. The vaccine is now also recommended for infants 6-11 months of age prior to departing for international travel, with a revaccination of two doses separated by 6 to 18 months administered to children 12 to 23 months of age.

Hepatitis B

For mothers who test HBsAg-positive, a newborn should still be administered the hepatitis B vaccine (HepB) and 0.5 mL of HepB immune globulin (HBIG) (at separate anatomic sites) within 12 hours of birth, regardless of birth weight. As of this year, infants weighing less than 2,000 grams should now be administered three additional doses of the vaccine (total of four doses) beginning at one month of age.

Influenza Vaccine

Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) has officially been added to the 2019 recommended immunization schedule. In the past, patients with a history of egg allergies or other circumstances have been among groups where LAIV use is not recommended. A Special Situations section has been added to address information for these scenarios.

Tetanus Toxoid, Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine

Patients who received a dose of Tdap or diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP) at 7 to 10 years old should still receive the routine dose of Tdap at age 11 to 12 years. This is a change from last year's recommendation of only a catch-up Tdap vaccine.

Beyond these vaccination recommendation updates, a new category has been added to the 2019 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization schedule -- one that may particularly grab a pregnant mother's attention. A new pink color has been added to the 2019 CDC legend, which represents "delay vaccination until after pregnancy if vaccine is needed," which indicates to postpone the human papillomavirus vaccine until after pregnancy.

For the full schedule of updated recommended immunizations, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.



Children's Advocacy

Tim Curley

Director, Community and Government Relations
Valley Children's Healthcare

Funding for Physician Education

Valley Children's continues to advocate for a strong state and federal commitment to physician training. One of our priorities this year is working with Congress to increase annual spending on the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program from the current level of \$325 million annually to \$400 million annually beginning in October 2019 and up to \$625 million annually beginning in 2023. CHGME currently funds pediatric training slots at 51% of the rate funded under the Medicare Graduate Medical Education program.

Governor Gavin Newsom's Key Appointments

California Governor Gavin Newsom recently announced two key appointments that bode well for a strong state commitment to child health and wellness. On January 21, the Governor announced the appointment of Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, a pediatrician, as California's first ever Surgeon General. Newsom said in a news release that Dr. Burke Harris will focus on combating the root causes of serious health conditions and will use her office to reach young families across the state. Then, on March 11, the Governor announced the appointment of Dr. Mark Ghaly, also a pediatrician, as California's Secretary of Health and Human Services. As Secretary, Dr. Ghaly will lead the administration's direction with respect to healthcare, including those issues impacting child health and wellness.

State Legislation

Valley Children's is still sorting through the large number of bills introduced in the state legislature this year. However, three initial bills of interest to Valley Children's include the following.

- Assembly Bill 526 by Assembly Member Petrie Norris (Irvine) would implement expedited enrollment into Medi-Cal for women and children being served through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program who are eligible for Medi-Cal but not currently enrolled.
- Assembly Bill 577 by Assembly Member Eggman (Stockton – Tracy) would extend Medi-Cal postpartum care from 60 days to one year for women diagnosed with a maternal mental health disorder.
- Senate Bill 207 by state Senator Melissa Hurtado (Fresno – Hanford – Bakersfield) would include asthma prevention services as a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program.

Medical Staff News

The following pediatric specialists recently joined Valley Children's:

Anesthesiology

Andrew Parsons, MD

Primary Care

Mia Lagunda, MD

Omobola Olaniyan, MD

CME Registration

We are pleased to announce a new and enhanced CME registration system. This new system will allow you to create a profile so you can save your information for an easier registration process. You will also be able to check into events you have attended, view presentations, complete evaluations online and print certificates on demand. The system will also allow you to generate a transcript of all the live and online events you have attended, in addition to loading outside credit information for non-Valley Children's events you have attended.

Questions about registering? Contact us at programs@valleychildrens.org or 559-353-6621.

For questions or more information on these and other issues, feel free to contact Tim Curley at 559-353-8610 or TCurley@valleychildrens.org