

Subject: Steps to Implement the 16-Year-Old Immunization Schedule Update and Vaccinate More Teens

Dear [ENTER STATE] Vaccines for Children Program Provider,

This letter serves to highlight that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently modified the [2017 Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#) to include a specific 16-year-old immunization column.¹ This update provides an important opportunity to make vaccination a routine focus at the 16-year-old visit to help protect teens against serious infectious diseases.

In light of this important schedule update, below is an outline of actions for this visit:

- Check that patients who received a first dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) at age 11-12 years get a second dose at age 16 years because protection from the vaccine wanes within five years. If the first dose of MCV4 is administered at age 16 years or older, a second dose is not necessary.
- Verify whether your patients have started or completed the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series as the 16-year-old visit provides a good opportunity to catch up as needed. Two doses are recommended for most patients beginning the HPV vaccine series before their 15th birthday, while three doses are recommended for patients beginning the series after age 15 years.
- Review vaccination records to confirm if your 16-year-old patients are up to date on tetanus, diphtheria, & acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and, if in season, the annual influenza vaccine.
- Use this visit as an opportunity to check on the completion of other immunizations, such as hepatitis A, and the second dose of both the varicella and measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines. This is also a time to evaluate whether a patient would be a candidate for the meningococcal B (Men B) vaccine.

As always, thank you for your efforts to help increase vaccination rates. As you know, adolescent immunization rates are dismally low on a national level, particularly for those vaccines administered as multi-dose series, such as MCV4 and HPV vaccines.² As part of a larger effort to help address this issue, a multidisciplinary group of experts in adolescent health and immunization created the Adolescent Immunization Initiative (AII), with a mission to help establish a 16-year-old immunization platform. The group collaborated on a white paper, [Rationale for an Immunization Platform at 16 Years of Age](#), to help call attention to the millions of teenagers in the U.S. vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. I encourage you to read

and share the white paper with your peers and colleagues. We'll be sharing more information and content as part of the Initiative in the future.

Thank you for your continued work to help protect children from infectious disease.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger, UNITED STATES, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-combined-schedule-bw.pdf>.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years — United States, 2015. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533a4.htm?s_cid=mm6533a4_e.