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Memorandum

To: Health Insurers, Health Plans and Providers

From: Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager

Date: August 2009

Subject:

- 1) Increased Availability of State Supplied Vaccines
 - Continuation of Universal Rotavirus Vaccine for Infants
 - Adolescent Catch-up with MCV4, Tdap, and Varicella Vaccines Effective August 1, 2009
 - Expanded Availability of Select Adult Vaccines at Public Provider Sites Effective August 1, 2009
- 2) Recommendation for Continued Reimbursement for Privately-Purchased Adult Vaccines

Massachusetts has received a limited amount of increased federal and state funding for vaccines that allows us to increase availability of MDPH-supplied vaccines for adolescents in both the public and private sectors, and vaccines for adults in the public sector. Funding is limited however and providers have privately-purchased vaccine in inventory, and they may need to continue to purchase some vaccines.

For privately-purchased pediatric vaccines, MDPH is asking health plans and insurers to allow for at least a 6 month grace period from the effective dates listed above before suspending reimbursement for these vaccines to allow for adequate reimbursement for vaccine that has been purchased prior to this announcement.

For privately-purchased adult vaccines, MDPH is asking health plans and insurers to continue reimbursement, since state-supplied vaccines are only being made available in public settings and only in limited quantities.

MDPH is planning to:

- 1) **continue** universal distribution of rotavirus vaccine for all infants 6 weeks to 8 months of age regardless of VFC-eligibility status;
- 2) **expand** availability of MCV4, Tdap and varicella vaccines for adolescent catch-up vaccinations effective August 1, 2009 as outlined in the enclosed table; and
- 3) **expand** availability of some adult vaccines effective August 1, 2009 for Massachusetts adults 19 year of age and older who are seen in public settings.

Please note: This expanded availability will be in effect only for as long as funding permits.

Remember, MDPH-supplied human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine continues to be available **only** for VFC-eligible girls, 11-18 years of age (and not universally provided by the MDPH Immunization Program).

Availability of some MDPH-supplied vaccines for adults is being expanded at public sector sites. However, supplies are not adequate to meet all of the need. MDPH is asking public providers to:

- **prioritize** MDPH-provided adult vaccines for those patients at highest risk and who are without any health insurance and
- **purchase and bill** for as many doses of vaccines for adults as possible.

Vaccine availability for all other antigens and populations remains the same. Please see the enclosed MDPH's *Childhood Vaccine Availability Table* and *Adult Vaccine Availability Table* (also available at <https://www.mass.gov/dph/imm>) which provide more guidance on state-supplied vaccine availability.

If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.