

Assessment, Feedback, Incentives and Exchange (AFIX) Awards

On Oct. 5, 2006, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Immunization Program hosted the first AFIX Awards and Exchange conference. Dr. J. Nick Baird, director, ODH and Carolyn Parry, MPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public health advisor, AFIX coordinator, presented AFIX awards to private and public practices recognizing outstanding performance in attaining high immunization rates and/or improving immunization rates. Immunization rates were based on the four DTaP, three polio, one MMR, three Hib and three hepatitis B (4:3:1:3:3) series. The awards were presented for 2005 rates.

Dr. Melinda Wharton, MD, MPH, deputy director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), CDC, gave the keynote address titled *Childhood Vaccination: Opportunities and Challenges*. During the exchange portion of the conference, attendees heard from three private practices and three local health districts about ways they have improved and/or sustain high immunization rates. Attendees heard from Barbara Smurda, RN, BSN, Cincinnati City Health Department, Cincinnati; Christy Vickers, MS, RN, CPNP, Coshocton County Health Department, Coshocton; Frances Meeks, RN, Hancock County Health Department, Findlay; Stephanie Coffey, MSW, Hopple Street Neighborhood Health Center, Cincinnati; Ryan Vogelgesang, MD, Preferred Pediatrics, Inc., Parma; and Mark Wilson, MD, Sniffles and Smiles Pediatrics, St. Clairsville. For the final portion of the conference, attendees broke into two groups, rural and urban, for a smaller discussion of best practices, where attendees shared information about their successes as well as asked questions of other practices and clinics.

The AFIX Project for Ohio is a continuous quality-improvement program for practices to determine and improve the immunization rates of their 2-year-olds. AFIX is a free service provided by the ODH Immunization

Program and participating local health districts. For more information or to request an AFIX visit, contact the ODH Immunization Program at (614) 466-4643/(800) 282-0546 or contact your local health district.

Congratulations to all the award winners.

AFIX 90 percent Club Award

This is awarded to those practices who achieve 90 percent or higher immunization rates by 24 months of age.

Chesterland Pediatrics, Willoughby
Cincinnati City Health Department, Cincinnati
Euclid Pediatrics, Inc., Mentor
Judy Romano, MD, Martins Ferry

Leroy Eberly, MD, Boardman
Louis Brine, MD, Boardman
Madison County – London City Health District, London
Mid-City Pediatrics, Inc., Cincinnati
Ohio Pediatrics, Inc. – North, Huber Heights
Oxford Pediatrics and Adolescents, Oxford
Parma Pediatrics, Inc., Parma
Pediatric Associates of Dayton – Englewood, Englewood
Preferred Pediatrics, Inc., Parma

Queen City Physicians, Cincinnati
Sniffles and Smiles Pediatrics, St. Clairsville
University Suburban Pediatrics, South Euclid

AFIX Improvement Award

This is awarded for outstanding improvement in immunization rates to five practices in the state with the largest increase in rates between 2003 and 2005.

Forest Park Health Center, Forest Park
Hamilton County General Health District, Cincinnati
Mid-City Pediatrics, Inc., Cincinnati
Oxford Pediatrics and Adolescents, Oxford
Western Family Physicians, Cincinnati



Immunization Update Continued...

HPV

In June, the FDA licensed a vaccine against human papilloma virus (HPV) for use in females 9 to 26 years of age. GARDASIL® is considered highly effective in preventing infections that are the cause of most cervical



cancers. The ACIP recommends GARDASIL® be routinely given to girls at the age of 11 – 12 years in a three-dose series. The ACIP also supports vaccination of girls as young as 9 and females ages 13 to 26 who have not previously been vaccinated. HPV vaccine is now currently available from ODH, effective Jan. 1, 2007, for VFC eligible children, and providers may begin ordering HPV vaccine for VFC-eligible children now. For more information on HPV, please see the article on page 5.

Hepatitis A

In 2006, hepatitis A vaccine was recommended for all children at 1 year of age. Hepatitis A vaccine is a two-dose series that should be administered at least six months apart. Hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus, acquired by the fecal-oral route through person-to-person contact or by ingesting contaminated food or water. Hepatitis A can spread quickly among children and can be contagious two weeks before onset of illness. Hepatitis A vaccine can now be ordered from ODH.

Meningococcal

Vaccine manufacturer sanofi pastuer reports that limitations in meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) supply have been resolved. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends resuming routine vaccination for all recommended groups according to ACIP recommendations, including children aged 11–12 years and, if not previously vaccinated with MCV4, of adolescents at high-school entry (at approximately age 15 years), of college freshmen living in dormitories and of other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease. Where possible, providers who deferred vaccination of children aged 11–12 years should recall those patients for vaccination.

***Local health departments should refer to recent ODH memos that indicate the vaccines available only to VFC-eligible children.*

School entry requirements 2006 – 2007

Pupils enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 are required to have written proof on file at their public or nonpublic school that they have been immunized against:

- Diphtheria (4 – 5 doses)
- Tetanus (4 – 5 doses)
- Pertussis (4 – 5 doses)
- Poliomyelitis (3 – 4 doses)
- Measles (2 doses)
- Mumps (2 doses)
- Rubella (2 doses)
- Hepatitis B (3 – 4 doses)
- Varicella (1 dose: kindergarten only)

For additional dosing and vaccine information please contact the ODH at (800) 282-0546.