

VACCINATE ADULTS!

from the Immunization Action Coalition — www.immunize.org

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Dr. William L. Atkinson, Immunization Legend, Retiring from CDC

After 25 years of service, Dr. William (Bill) L. Atkinson will be retiring from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) at the end of June. Well known to readers of the *Vaccinate Adults* and *Needle Tips* columns "Ask the Experts," Dr. Atkinson has had tremendous impact on the U.S. immunization program during his career. The following tributes from Dr. Larry K. Pickering and Dr. Deborah L. Wexler attest to the significance of Dr. Atkinson's tenure of service at CDC.

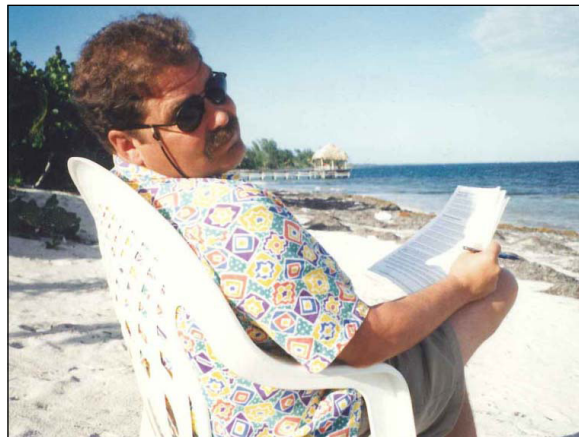
Larry K. Pickering, MD, FAAP, senior advisor to the director of NCIRD and executive secretary of

the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), honored Dr. Atkinson at the February 2012 ACIP meeting. The following paragraphs are adapted from Dr. Pickering's speech at ACIP. Dr. Wexler's accolades follow Dr. Pickering's.

Following training in psychology, medicine, and epidemiology, and board certification in internal medicine and preventive medicine, Bill arrived at CDC in 1983 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer. Following his two-year assignment as an EIS officer, he served at the Louisiana State Health Department in New Orleans and was on the faculty of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine until 1989, when he moved to Atlanta.

From 1989 through 1994, he was responsible for measles surveillance and outbreak investigation for what was then known as the National Immunization Program. He was the point person for measles during the major resurgence of 1989 through 1991.

The first ACIP statement Bill wrote was the noteworthy 1989 recommendation on measles prevention. It made a significant change in the childhood immunization schedule by recommending two doses of measles-containing



On the beach reviewing "Ask the Experts," Xcalak, Mexico, Dec. 1999

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Ask the Experts

IAC extends thanks to our experts, medical epidemiologist Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH; nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN; medical officer Iyabode Akinsanya-Beysolow, MD, MPH; and medical epidemiologist William L. Atkinson, MD, MPH. All are with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Immunization questions?

- Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636 or (800) CDC-INFO
- Email nipinfo@cdc.gov
- Call your state health dept. (phone numbers at www.immunize.org/coordinators)

Immunization questions

Please review the new recommendations for the use of Tdap in people 65 years and older.

At its February 2012 meeting, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend Tdap for adults age 65 years and older. CDC posted the provisional recommendations on its website on March 21 at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/Tdap-feb2012.pdf.

Two Tdap vaccines are currently licensed in the United States. They are Boostrix (GSK), approved for use in people age 10 years and older, and Adacel (sanofi pasteur) approved for use in people age 11 through 64 years.

The provisional recommendations state the following:

- Give a single dose of Tdap to previously unvaccinated adults age 19 years and older.
- Give the Tdap dose regardless of the interval since the person last received a tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.

- Give the Tdap dose to adults for whom it is recommended if no record of previous administration exists.

Do not miss an opportunity to give Tdap to people age 65 years and older. Administer the vaccine you have available—either Boostrix or Adacel. When feasible, give Boostrix to adults age 65 and older. However, either vaccine product provides

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Vaccine Highlights

Recommendations, schedules, and more

CDC vaccine news

On March 21, CDC posted “ACIP Provisional Tdap Recommendations.” They reflect ACIP’s February 22 vote to extend the age for Tdap vaccination to include all adults age 65 years and older. For details, see “Ask the Experts” on page 1.

To access the provisional recommendations, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/Tdap-feb2012.htm. ACIP provisional recommendations become CDC recommendations once they are accepted by the director of CDC and the Secretary of Health and Human Services and are published in *MMWR*.

On Feb. 3, CDC published “Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule—U.S., 2012.” Issued jointly by ACIP, AAFP, ACOG, ACP, and ACNM, it is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm. This issue of *Vaccinate Adults* includes a reformatted version on pages 6–8.

IAC has developed laminated 6-page color versions of both 2012 immunization schedules, the child and teen as well as the adult. They are available for purchase. For more information, visit www.immunize.org/shop/laminated-schedules.asp.

VIS news

On April 20, CDC released an updated edition of the VIS for MMR vaccine. To access it and its 9 new translations, go to www.immunize.org/vis/vis_mmr.asp.

On Feb. 22, CDC released an updated VIS for Gardasil quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV; Merck) vaccine. (The VIS for Cervarix bivalent HPV vaccine [GSK] has not been updated.) To access the VIS for Gardasil vaccine and its 13 new translations, go to www.immunize.org/vis/vis_hpv_gardasil.asp.

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are available in several languages.

Visit www.immunize.org/vis

On Feb. 2, CDC released a revised interim edition of the VIS for hepatitis B vaccine. The revision includes the new ACIP recommendations for vaccinating adults with diabetes. To access it and its

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12 new translations, go to www.immunize.org/vis/vis_hepatitis_b.asp.

FDA vaccine news

On Feb. 29, FDA issued a press release announcing that it has approved the first quadrivalent vaccine to prevent seasonal influenza. A live attenuated vaccine, FluMist Quadrivalent (manufactured by MedImmune) contains four strains of the influenza virus—two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains. It is approved for use in people age 2 through 49 years. The FDA press release is available at www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm294057.htm.

Dr. William L. Atkinson, Immunization Legend, Retiring . . . continued from page 1

vaccine rather than one. Since then, Bill has made major contributions to numerous ACIP recommendations. In 1998, he assumed the lead in writing ACIP’s *General Recommendations on Immunization*, a critically important reference and teaching guide on immunization techniques and concepts. Bill continued to be an author on subsequent editions, including the 2011 version. Over the past 15 years, Bill has served as a member of almost every ACIP work group, providing useful input based on his extensive interaction with front-line clinicians. Bill has been a trailblazer throughout his career:

- In 1995, he pioneered the use of satellite and broadcast technology to bring immunization education to thousands of immunization providers simultaneously. Since 1995, he produced, wrote, and/or appeared in more than 100 broadcasts and webcasts that were viewed by more than 300,000 healthcare providers.
- In 1995, Bill conceived, developed, and took the lead in writing one of CDC’s most widely sought-after books, *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (aka the Pink Book). The book is now in its twelfth edition, and more than 400,000 copies have been distributed.
- In 1995, Bill developed nipinfo@cdc.gov, one of

the first and most long-lived program-specific email services at CDC. NIPINFO, which provides access to CDC immunization experts, is run by Bill and other staff of CDC’s Immunization Services Division. Since 1995, NIPINFO has responded to between 5,000 and 10,000 queries per year.

Bill’s talent as a speaker is legendary within the immunization community. He is in constant demand for live presentations. During his tenure at CDC, he gave more than 600 invited lectures and taught more than 100 two-day training courses across the United States, addressing more than 150,000 attendees.

The recipient of numerous awards, Bill was the first recipient of CDC’s highest immunization honor, the Phil Horne Award, which is given to recognize NCIRD staff members who have demonstrated high ideals, innovation, and commitment to immunization practices, and whose accomplishments and work performance have had a significant impact on achieving NCIRD’s mission. He was also the 2001 recipient of the Bill Watson Medal of Excellence, the highest award given to a CDC employee.

Throughout his career, Bill has used his creativity, dynamic personality, and exceptional teaching abilities to the benefit of the immunization com-

munity. His numerous accomplishments serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Deborah L. Wexler, MD, executive director of the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), recalled the first time she heard Bill speak at an immunization conference. “He was breathtaking. His style was completely engaging, entertaining, and energizing. His content was factual and practical. I’d never heard anyone give a presentation about immunization as dynamically as Bill did. Nor had I ever met anyone with the depth and breadth of knowledge about immunization that Bill had.

“Bill’s contributions to IAC have been immeasurable. From writing his first “Ask the Experts” column for IAC in 1995 to reviewing IAC’s educational materials, he has been an enormously valued partner to IAC for nearly 20 years. He was IAC’s CDC project officer from 2000 to 2004, a time of critical expansion for IAC. Since then, he has consistently helped to clarify and sharpen our work. As IAC’s founder, I am so appreciative of all that Bill has contributed.”

All of us at IAC are grateful to Dr. Atkinson for his enduring leadership and dedication. We wish him great happiness in retirement and hope the immunization community can continue to engage his boundless talents!