Ask the Experts

The Immunization Action Coalition extends thanks to our experts, medical officers Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH; Candice L. Robinson, MD, MPH; Raymond A. Srikats, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA; Jessie Wing, MD, MPH; and nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN, all with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Influenza vaccines

I have a patient who is now 12 weeks pregnant. In September 2016, she received quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccination (before she was pregnant). Should we give her another dose of 2016–17 influenza vaccine since she was not pregnant at the time of her first dose?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) does not recommend more than one dose of influenza vaccine per season, except for certain children being vaccinated for the first time. The 2017–18 influenza vaccine may be available near the end of her pregnancy so she can be given a dose of next year’s formulation at that time.

A nursing home resident was admitted to the hospital with influenza and treated with oseltamivir. The person is now returned to the nursing home. The residents in the facility are being treated prophylactically with oseltamivir. Should the person who was hospitalized also receive oseltamivir prophylactically?

This is a complicated issue and the exact situation you describe is not addressed in the most recent ACIP recommendations on the use of influenza antiviral drugs. Whether to continue the antiviral drug depends on why the rest of the people in the facility are being treated. Oseltamivir for treatment of influenza is usually a 5-day course. If there is continued risk of exposure in the facility, it seems that the ACIP influenza antiviral guidelines are available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/r6001.pdf.

Pneumococcal vaccines

We have a 19-year-old patient with a history of vasculitis, nephritis, and asthma. She is on azathioprine (Imuran) and is immunsup-

Ask the Experts…continued on page 2