

NEEDLE TIPS

from the Immunization Action Coalition — www.immunize.org

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Ask the Experts

The Immunization Action Coalition extends thanks to our experts, medical officer Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH, and nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN, both with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Hepatitis B vaccine

What is the recommended time to do hepatitis B testing for evidence of success or failure of immunoprophylaxis given at birth to an infant born to a hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive mother?

In 2015, CDC revised the recommendation for the timing of hepatitis B serologic testing for infants born to an HBsAg-positive woman. Postvaccination testing (HBsAg and hepatitis B surface antibody [anti-HBs]) is now recommended 1 to 2 months after completion of at least three doses of

Use Standing Orders to Increase Coverage Rates and Protect Patients

Using standing orders protocols for vaccination in your medical practice allows appropriately trained healthcare professionals – who are permitted to do so under state law – to assess a patient's need for vaccination, determine if there are contraindications or precautions, and then to administer vaccine without obtaining a physician's written or verbal order for an individual patient.

Numerous studies have shown that standing orders, carried out by nurses or other qualified healthcare professionals, are one of the most consistently effective means for increasing vaccination rates and reducing missed opportunities for vaccination, thereby improving quality of care.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended the use of standing orders to increase adult vaccination rates since 2000. See www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4901a2.htm.

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) recommends standing orders for vaccinations based on strong evidence of effectiveness in improving vaccination rates among adults and children, when used alone or with additional interventions, and across a range of settings and populations. See www.thecommunityguide.org/vaccines/standingorders.html.

Exactly who is authorized to administer vaccines under standing orders varies by state law. To find out which medical personnel are permitted to administer vaccines under standing orders in your state, contact your state immunization program manager. Contact information is available at www.immunize.org/coordinators.

If you are interested in starting a standing orders program in your practice setting, the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has materials

the hepatitis B vaccine series. For a child on schedule, this is age 9 to 12 months. The previous recommendation was to test an on-schedule child at age 9 to 18 months. Testing should not be performed before age 9 months, as hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) might still be present for 6 to 8 months, nor should testing be performed within 1 month of the most recent hepatitis B vaccine dose, as a transient false positive HBsAg might occur. Antibody to hepatitis B core (anti-HBc) testing of infants or children is not recommended because passively acquired maternal anti-HBc might be detected up to age 24 months in children of HBV-

available that help make standing orders easy to implement. "Using Standing Orders for Administering Vaccines: What You Should Know" is a one-page article describing the basics of standing orders. See www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3066.pdf.

Standing Orders Templates for Routinely Recommended Vaccines Are Available on IAC's Website

IAC has created standing orders templates for all routinely recommended vaccines for administration to children, teens, and adults. They are all available online and are modifiable in any way you choose to suit your practice's needs. These standing orders templates are based on ACIP vaccine recommendations and are reviewed for technical accuracy by CDC staff. IAC updates its standing orders protocols whenever ACIP makes changes in vaccine recommendations.

You can find IAC's standing orders templates on IAC's Standing Orders web page at www.immunize.org/standing-orders. A few examples follow:

- "Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Adults" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074.pdf)
- "Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Children and Adolescents" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3074a.pdf)
- "Standing Orders for Administering Tdap/Td Vaccine to Adults" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3078.pdf)
- "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082a.pdf)
- "Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adult Patients" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082.pdf)

Access all IAC's standing orders templates at www.immunize.org/standing-orders.

To be notified when new or revised templates become available, subscribe to IAC's free weekly news service, *IAC Express*, at www.immunize.org/subscribe, which is sent to more than 50,000 healthcare professionals every Wednesday. ♦

Immunization questions?

- ▶ Email nipinfo@cdc.gov
- ▶ Call your state health department (phone numbers at www.immunize.org/coordinators)

Ask the Experts... continued on page 2 ▶