Collaboration between Viral Hepatitis and Immunization Programs

NASTAD VLC
March 20, 2024

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Georgia Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

- Organizationally, housed within the Office of Epidemiology, Acute Disease Epidemiology Section

- Integrated team that consists of
  - Surveillance and epidemiology
    - Hepatitis A
    - Hepatitis B
    - Hepatitis C
  - Prevention
  - Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
  - Perinatal Hepatitis C Surveillance and Case Management
Georgia Immunization Program (GIP)

• Organizationally, housed within the DPH Division of Clinical and Medical Services
• Supports the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
• Manages vaccines funded by:
  • Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
  • Federal Section 317 immunization grant
  • State CHIP (PeachCare for Kids®) program
• 317-vaccines available at DPH clinics statewide at no cost for those un-insured or under-insured
  • Admin fee for self-pay patients for non-Medicaid VFC and 317 vaccines (capped at $21.93/injection)
  • No client should be refused vaccination with VFC, Section 317, or CHIP vaccine due to inability to pay the administration fee
• Health departments can bill insurance if patient is insured
Eligibility for Federal Funded 317 Hepatitis A Vaccinations

317 hepA vaccines can be used for any uninsured or under-insured individuals

- Men having sex with men
- Illegal drug users
- Female partners of MSM
- Persons who engage in sexual practices that could facilitate fecal-oral transmission of hepatitis A
- Person with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C
- HIV-infected persons seeking HIV care services
- Homeless adults
- American Indians and Alaska natives
- Persons 19 years of age and older, designated as eligible contacts to a documented case of hepatitis A disease
- Persons who need to complete the series
- Any unvaccinated adult who wants to be protected against hepatitis A virus

Eligibility for Federal Funded 317 Hepatitis B Vaccinations

317 vaccines can be used for any uninsured or under-insured individuals (2 dose or 3 dose hep B vaccine brands available for adults 19 yrs. or older)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men having sex with men</td>
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<td>Illegal drug users</td>
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<td>Persons seeking STD/HIV clinic services, including HIV testing and counseling and HIV care services</td>
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<td>Individuals with multiple partners (more than 1 partner in 6months)</td>
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<td>Persons recently diagnosed with an STD</td>
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<td>Homeless adults</td>
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<td>Persons seeking Family Planning clinic services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual partners and household contacts of persons with acute and chronic HBV infection</td>
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<td>Hemodialysis/transplant patients</td>
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<td>Diabetics (Type I or Type II)</td>
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<td>Persons who need to complete the series</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any unvaccinated adult who wants to be protected against hepatitis B virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons 19 years of age and older with negative serology despite having 3 documented doses of hep b vaccine</td>
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Adult Vaccine Providers (AVP) &
317-Vaccines for non-Public Health Providers

• Available at all county health departments
• In addition to health departments, currently 81 non-public health providers have been enrolled as Adult Vaccine Providers (AVP) through the GIP
  • Should serve clients that are un-insured or under-insured
  • Must have infrastructure in place prior to being approved
    • Storage capacity, including digital data logger thermometers
    • Complete and sign Adult Vaccine Provider (AVP) agreement
    • Routine site visits by Immunization Program field staff
    • Monthly requirements to report their vaccine inventory on hand and the doses administered to un-insured/under-insured adults in the Georgia Registry for Immunization Transactions & Services (GRITS)
• Can request adult hepA and hepB vaccines, as well as other adult recommended vaccines (TdaP, Meningococcal, Influenza, MMR, Pneumococcal, Varicella, HPV, Shingles, COVID-19, MPOX (possibly coming soon))
Collaborations between Georgia Viral Hepatitis and Immunization Programs

- Know key staff (AVP, immunization registry, special projects/education)
- Participation in Immunization meetings/conferences
- Hepatitis training recommendations for Immunization/nursing staff
- Partner for vaccine education efforts (i.e. vaccine clinics, Immunization Newsletter, public/provider education)
- Look for opportunities in grants/supplemental projects to integrate hepA/B vaccinations
- Data requests to monitor adult hep A/B vaccine administration by clinic type/provider type
- Immunization staff involvement with Viral Hepatitis Elimination Workgroup
  - Vaccination activities integrated within our Elimination Plan
- Connect community partners to key Immunization staff for vaccine education; enroll in AVP
  - Assisted in connecting local SSP with AVP
- Ensure Immunization staff included in outbreak response
Hepatitis A Outbreak Response

• Immunization staff included in Hepatitis A Incident Command Structure
• Waivers provided to Public Health Districts with declared outbreaks
  • Bypass insurance screening for using 317-funded vaccines; made it easier to provide vaccination in high-risk settings (i.e. jails, homeless shelters)
• Immunization registry data monitored for vaccine administration statewide
• Vaccination administration data included in weekly situational reports
  • Public Health Districts required to report vaccine outreach data
Connecting Local SSP with the Georgia Immunization Program

- Assisted local SSP (Georgia Harm Reduction Coalition) to become enrolled as an AVP
- Became enrolled during peak of our HepA outbreak
- Currently have SSPs in 32 locations statewide
- Continues to provide adult vaccinations to their clients
Questions?

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