



CDC Makes Recommendations for Flu Prevention

The Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has published its recommendations regarding the use of inactivated influenza vaccine and the recently approved (as of June 17, 2003) intranasally administered live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) during the 2003-2004 season. These recommendations have received wide media attention and dissemination.

While the optimal time to vaccinate against influenza is during October and November, the length of the flu season, when coupled with the past pattern of peak flu activity, means that vaccination later in the flu season (December and later) can still provide protection against influenza.

The Health Services team at Community Health Network calls your attention to several of the ACIP recommendations that may pertain to our members under your care.

Target Groups for Vaccination

Appropriate target groups to receive flu vaccinations include:

- 1) Anyone at increased risk for complication from an influenza infection
- 2) Anyone aged 50 to 65 years
- 3) Anyone able to transmit influenza to "high-risk" individuals
- 4) Anyone considered in a "high-risk" category, specifically:
 - Persons over 65 years old
 - Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities
 - Adults and children with chronic cardiovascular or pulmonary conditions such as asthma or emphysema
 - Adults and children who currently require (or in the past have required) medical care/hospitalization for chronic metabolic diseases, renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies or immunosuppression
 - Children and adolescents from 6-months to 18-years old on long-term aspirin therapy, as they could be at risk for Reye syndrome after an influenza infection
 - Pregnant women who will be in their second or third trimester during flu season



CHNCT promotes the CDC's ACIP recommendations and advises the participating providers treating our members to diligently adhere to these important flu prevention guidelines.

Young Children and their Close Contacts

CDC's ACIP has made the following statement about the

2003-2004 flu season regarding children and those they come in close contact with: "Because young, otherwise healthy children are at increased risk for flu-related hospitalization, the influenza vaccination of healthy children aged 6 to 23 months continues to be encouraged when feasible. Vaccination of children older than 6 months who have certain medical conditions also continues to be strongly recommended. In addition, because of the increased risk for influenza-related hospitalization of children aged 6 to 23 months, vaccination is encouraged for their household contacts and out-of-home caregivers, particularly for contacts of children up to 5 months old. Influenza vaccines have not been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use among children less than 6 months old."

Note: The ACIP, on October 15, 2003, voted to recommend that children 6 to 23 months old receive annual influenza vaccinations. The ACIP recommended this change be implemented during Fall 2004 for the 2004-2005 flu season. Recommendations of the ACIP are forwarded to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) for review. If the ACIP recommendations are accepted by the CDC Director and the HHS Secretary, they are published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and become recommendations of CDC.

ACIP Recommendations for LAIV

Regarding intranasally administered live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), the ACIP has indicated that LAIV (trade name "FluMist") can be considered a useful option to inactivated vaccine for vaccination against the flu for specific population groups. LAIV, however, does not replace the inactivated vaccine and is not approved for all groups who can use the inactivated vaccine. LAIV is not recommended for "high risk" individuals who might experience complications from the flu.

Individuals who should not receive LAIV include:

- Anyone younger than 5-years, or 50 years of age and older
- Anyone with chronic cardiovascular or pulmonary conditions such as asthma or emphysema
- Anyone with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes or renal dysfunction
- Children or adolescents on long-term aspirin therapy
- Anyone with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome
- Pregnant women
- Anyone with a history of hypersensitivity to eggs or to components of LAIV

As of now, the regular flu vaccine is in very limited supply and providers with high risk patients should contact their local health department for more information.

What is HIPAA

HIPAA is the acronym for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is responsible for implementing various unrelated provisions of HIPAA.

Administrative simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health plans, and employers. It also addresses protecting the privacy and security of health data. Adopting the standards of HHS will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's healthcare system, by encouraging the widespread use of appropriate electronic data interchange.



HIPAA TRANSACTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

Implementation of the Electronic Transaction and Code Sets took effect on October 16, 2003 and CHNCT began handling these transactions for claims and other electronic transactions being submitted in the appropriate compliant format.

CHNCT realizes that not all providers are ready to fully implement all compliant transactions yet. Therefore, a Contingency Plan was developed to prevent interruptions in the process of electronic transactions to our provider community and to avoid a negative effect on our providers' cash flow.

Community Health Network's Contingency Plan consists of the following three transaction components.

WebMD

CHNCT will continue to process available electronic claim transactions from our electronic claims clearinghouse, WebMD. Both fully compliant and legacy transactions will be processed for only a limited period of time, after which only compliant claim formats will be accepted for processing. CHNCT is working with our clearinghouse and with the provider community to help all of our providers to become fully compliant. Providers will have to work with CHNCT to test and certify that their transactions meet the compliance standards. Claim transactions sent through other clearinghouses will be passed to CHNCT by our WebMD connection and are therefore covered under

this contingency.

Direct Connection

CHNCT maintains a direct connection for submission of electronic transactions. Our Direct Connection is a web-based service that provides functionality for providers to transmit or receive all applicable HIPAA compliant transactions. Providers must work with our direct connection vendor and CHNCT to test and certify that their transactions meet the compliance standards. Community Health Network of Connecticut is working with our direct connection vendor and with the provider community to help all of our providers to become fully compliant.

Paper Claims

Providers who do not want to submit claims electronically should continue to mail in paper claims. CHNCT expects no delays or increases in processing time for paper claims; however, it is our goal to eventually phase out all paper claims.

www.

chnct.org

Our website at www.chnct.org has additional information on using our electronic transactions portals.

CORRECTIONS

The following corrections have been made to our participating provider listing since the recent printing of the new Community Health Network Provider Directory (August 2003 edition).

Nicholas Breyan, MD, Orthopedics has moved his practice from 399 Mill Hill Avenue in Bridgeport, to his new location at 650 Clinton Avenue, Bridgeport. His office phone number remains 203-330-7070.

Evis Medical Equipment has moved its DME facility from 283 Franklin Avenue in Hartford, to its new site in Hartford at 751 Maple Avenue. The phone number remains 860-296-3565.

Steven Hershcopf, DDS is no longer a participating dentist in the CHNCT dental network.

Two participating durable medical equipment (DME) providers were inadvertently omitted from the latest directory. They are **Homecare Professionals**, 1587 Hamilton Avenue, Waterbury, 203-643-2411 and **American Home Patient**, 150 Mattatuck Heights, Waterbury, 800-750-0316. Two participating home health providers also were omitted erroneously. **Danbury VNA**, 203-792-4120 and **Greenwich Hospital Home Care**, 203-863-3883 are CHNCT network providers available to care for our members.

Special Lady has become a new CHNCT medical supply provider. They specialize in mastectomy bras and other supplies necessary for women who have undergone a mastectomy.

Special Lady is located at 3933 Main Street in Bridgeport, 203-373-0330.

CHNCT regrets the errors and apologizes for any inconvenience our misprinting has caused to our providers and members.

CHNCT Welcomes New Hospital Liaison

Suzanna Dykas joined Community Health Network's Provider Relations department on August 25, 2003, as the Hospital Relations Liaison. Sue brings valuable health care experience to CHNCT, having been a supervisor in a regional enteral therapy department for a local home health care company. She was also involved in sales for the National Association for the Self-Employed immediately prior to joining the Provider Relations team. We are pleased to welcome Sue to CHNCT and look forward to having her represent CHNCT at hospitals throughout the state of Connecticut.

Adolescent Health Incentive Program (AHIP) Update

Community Health Network of Connecticut is pleased to present the latest information regarding AHIP, a program established to help improve the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment /Well-Care participation ratio for our adolescent population.

- Our AHIP is known as **FOCUS: Focusing On Community YoUth Services**.
- We have an adolescent advisory group called **STREET'z: Striving To Reach and Educate Every Teen**.
- Representatives from our Outreach, Provider Relations, Marketing, and Quality Improvement departments will conduct a Meet & Greet at each of our primary care centers.
- CHNCT has a secured toll-free number for adolescents to call: 866-317-3301.
- CHNCT has a secured crisis hotline through Magellan Behavioral Health: 800-666-9578.
- Our adolescents will have post cards for your office to sign, to enable them to enter in a drawing to receive prizes for their visits.
- CHNCT has a Practitioner Recognition Program, through which the office that sees the most adolescents will be eligible for quarterly prize awards and special recognition at the end of the year.
- CHNCT has developed an EPSDT training video to help our PCP offices learn about EPSDT.

Community Health Network of Connecticut is very dedicated to the well-being of our members of all ages. CHNCT received "best practice" recognition from the Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc., for the development of an adolescent initiative designed to improve Well-Care participation. For more information regarding AHIP or obtaining a copy of the EPSDT training video for PCP offices, please contact Natalie Lombardi at 800-440-5071, extension 3141.

Jeffrey Alter, MD, Dermatology, Franklin Medical Group, Waterbury
 Lydia Aoun-Barakat, MD, Infectious Disease, FamilyCare, Waterbury
 Richard Auerbach, MD, Pediatrics, Newtown Pediatric Center, Newtown
 Ivette Becerra-Ortiz, APRN, Pediatrics, Community Health Services, Hartford
 Mary Birmingham, MD, Pediatrics, East Haven Pediatrics, East Haven
 Robert Boltax, MD, Vascular Surgery, New Haven
 Pagett Bossi, PA, Ob/Gyn, Southwest Community Health Center, Bridgeport
 Cristina Brunet, MD, Rheumatology, Robert Lange, MD PC, Madison
 Burton Caldwell, MD, Endocrinology, Robert Lange, MD PC, Madison
 Stanislaw Chorzepa, DO, Internal Medicine, New Britain
 Marjorie Corker-Holzer, MD, Pediatrics, Day Kimball Hospital Pediatric Center, Putnam
 Patrick Dorvilus, MD, Gastroenterology, Grove Hill Medical Center, New Britain
 Roger El-Hachem, MD, Internal Medicine, Franklin Internal Medicine, North Windham
 Diane Fahey, APRN, Pediatrics, Staywell Pediatrics, West Haven
 Gene Freylikhman, MD, Ob/Gyn, Norwich Ob/Gyn Group, Norwich
 Richard Hanwacker, MD, Family Practice, Sharon Family Practice, Sharon
 Lisa Haut, APRN, Family Practice, Associates in Family Practice, Brookfield
 Jurgen Holleck, MD, Internal Medicine, DOPS, Southbury
 Lata Rao Jayanthi, MD, Pediatrics, Franklin Medical Group, Waterbury
 Monica Joyce, APRN, Pediatrics, East Haven Pediatrics, East Haven
 Abdul Khaliq, MD, Ophthalmology, Northern Connecticut Eye Associates, Enfield
 Amy Kleinklaus, DO, Ob/Gyn, Stamford Ob.Gyn Associates, Stamford
 Irene Komarynsky, MD, Ob/Gyn, Stamford Ob/Gyn Associates, Trumbull
 Gargi Kubal, MD; Pediatrics, Branford Pediatrics & Allergy, Branford
 Gubbanna Kumar, MD, Pediatrics, Main Street Pediatrics, Bridgeport
 Garry Lapidus, PA, Pediatrics, Charter Oak Health Center, Hartford
 Deepa Limaye, MD, Pediatrics, Connecticut Pediatric Associates, Farmington
 David Lobo, MD, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine & Infectious Disease Associates, Stratford
 Laurie Loiacono, MD, General Surgery, Woodland Physician Associates, Hartford
 Indrani Malkani, MD, Pediatrics, Day Kimball Hospital Pediatric Center, Putnam
 Julie Malkin, MD, Ob/Gyn, Greater Bristol Primary Care Group, Bristol
 David McCallum, MD, General Surgery, Surgical Associates of Putnam, Putnam
 Denise McGowan, MD, Endocrinology, Robert Lange, MD PC, Madison
 Goran MilijkoVIC, MD, Internal Medicine./Infectious Disease., Internal Medicine & Infectious Disease Assocs, Stratford
 Christiane Nockels, PA, Internal Medicine, Hill Health Center, New Haven
 Laura Nowacki, MD, Pediatrics, Newtown Pediatric Center, Newtown
 Suppiah Pathmanathan, MD, Pediatrics, Hartford
 John Pendergast, PA, Family Practice, Associates in Family Practice, Brookfield
 Katherine Perry, APRN, Adult Medicine, Hill Health Center, New Haven
 Lynn Phillips, MD, Internal Medicine, Greater Bristol Primary Care Group, Bristol
 Jessica Ricciardelli, APRN, Pediatrics, East Haven Pediatrics, East Haven
 Mark Safalow, MD, Internal Medicine, Greater Bristol Primary Care Group, Bristol
 Zane Saul, MD, Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine & Infectious Disease Associates, Stratford
 Phyllis Schling, APRN, Family Practice, Community Health Services, Hartford
 William Shea, PA, Family Practice, Mount Moriah Medical Center, New London
 Thomas Terenzi, DO, Rheumatology, Woodland Physician Associates, Hartford
 Vincent Tumminello, MD, Urology, Stamford
 Jessica Wei, MD, Ob/Gyn, Middlesex Ob/Gyn Associates, Middletown
 David Weinstein, MD, Ob/Gyn, Stamford Ob/Gyn Associates, Stamford
 Melissa Welch, MD, Ob/Gyn, Ob/Gyn Services, Norwich
 Barbara Ziogas, MD, Pediatrics, Farmington

Providers No Longer Participating:

Mary Beaulieu, OD, Optometry, Clinton and Waterford
 Uchenna Emenike, MD, Internal Medicine, CHC Meriden
 Family Care Visiting Nurse and Healthcare, Home Health Care, Stratford
 Kamla Jain, MD, Family Practice, CHC Meriden
 Alan Malitz, MD, Urology, Ansonia and Milford
 Jose Mendoza, MD, Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, Bristol
 Hal Ostrom, OD, Advanced Practice Optometry, Clinton and Waterford
 Edward Spellman, MD, Neurology, Meriden and Milford
 Susan Wang, MD, Day Kimball Hospital

Third Quarter Provider Recognition Awards

Community Health Network of Connecticut is pleased to announce the third quarter recipients of the Provider Recognition Awards. The recipients are to be commended for their high standards of excellence in health care.

CHNCT is proud to acknowledge the high quality of care these providers have extended to our members. Not only are we grateful for their contribution to our membership, we are grateful for the dedication and diligence of all of the participating providers who make up our Community Health Network panel.

Jorge Mendez, MS, New Haven

A CHNCT member called in to tell us they were very appreciative of how much Mr. Mendez, a behavioral health provider, helped them. Mr. Mendez assisted our member with financial concerns, made phone calls and played an integral part in finding the member a home. Aside from providing therapy, Mr. Mendez went far beyond his duties in helping our member get their life back on track.

Haydee Lancman, MD, Stamford

Dr. Lancman has extended her, pediatric services as a medical provider by assisting CHNCT with her valuable input and support on improving EPSDT/well-care visits among the adolescent population. She strives in her private practice to encourage adolescents to come forward and discuss any issues involving adolescent growth. She also provides education, within both her practice and the Stamford community, on various issues, such as teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse and depression. Dr. Lancman has wholeheartedly accepted a position on CHNCT's Adolescent Health Incentive Program (AHIP) Committee. The program's main focus is improving the EPSDT/well-care visits among 13-19 year olds.

Evis Medical Equipment, DME, Hartford

A head of household called Evis Medical Equipment to request specific products for her special needs child. The products were very difficult to acquire, but the Evis staff was patient and persistent. Through several phone calls with CHNCT, the head of household and the manufacturing company, they ensured the head of household that her request would remain a priority. CHNCT extends special thanks to Ana Rodriguez of Evis Medical Equipment for her patience and persistence.

Juan Jose, DDS, Meriden

Dr. Jose is an exceptional dentist to both children and adults. He strongly believes in one-to-one patient contact. He is with the patients from the time they sit down for a procedure, to when the patients leave with all of their questions answered. He makes sure his patients are relaxed and takes his time, paying close attention to detail. He takes the time to answer any questions and concerns the patient may have and shows the patient how to properly maintain their teeth.

Wendy Fitt, RPT, Farmington

Wendy Fitt is a Physical Therapist working for Interim Healthcare of Hartford, in Farmington. Recently, Ms. Fitt took care of a difficult home care case. A CHNCT member often tried to veer from the established plan of care and would sometimes exaggerate situations. Wendy remained professional at all times and continually kept CHNCT's Care Management team abreast of every situation with the member. Her efforts kept the member on track, so that all of the member's home care goals were met.

Thank you and Congratulations to all of our providers who have been recognized for their excellence during this third quarter. We are grateful to have you as participating providers in our health care network.

Keep up the great work!

IMPORTANT CHNCT PHONE & FAX NUMBERS

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Main Switchboard	203-237-4000	203-634-8411
Provider Relations	800-440-5071	203-639-1069
Care Management	800-440-5071	203-639-0719
Claims	800-440-5071	203-630-7990
Member Services	800-859-9889	203-317-3972

Note to our PCP Pediatricians: If dental services are needed for CHNCT patients, please contact BeneCare's Provider Relations department at **800-995-9943** to help you and our member find a dentist.

The Network News Provider Newsletter is a quarterly publication of Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc. (CHNCT). It offers policy news and tips on following procedures for CHNCT and the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), for administering both the HUSKY A and B programs.

We pledge each member will be serviced with the highest level of respect, dignity, and professional integrity.

In partnership with our provider network, we will continually seek to improve the health care status and well being of our members and their families that have entrusted us with their care.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK

