



# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA \* DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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SUBJECT  
Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine  
Menactra (MCV4)

BY  
  
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Office of Medical Assistance Programs

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce that effective February 7, 2005, the Department of Public Welfare (Department) added the newly licensed tetravalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine Menactra (MCV4) to its PROMISe™ Drug/NDC Fee Schedule and the Medical Assistance (MA) Outpatient Fee Schedule for the prevention of meningococcal disease.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to providers who are authorized to administer immunizations to MA recipients in the Fee-for-Service or MA Managed Care delivery systems.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria that infect the bloodstream and the lining of the brain and spinal cord, often causing serious illness. Every year in the United States, 1,400 to 2,800 people get meningococcal disease. Ten to 14 percent of people with meningococcal disease die, and 11-19 percent of survivors have permanent disabilities such as mental retardation, hearing loss and loss of limbs. Meningococcal disease is most common in infants less than one year of age and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. College freshmen who live in dormitories also have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Consistent with Department Regulations at 55 Pa. Code § 1241.42(2), the Department routinely issues immunization guidelines based on recommendations from accredited organizations involved in children’s healthcare. As such, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently recommended the administration of MCV for the following populations:

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.  
Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap)

- \* Young adolescents at age 11-12 years old at their routine preadolescent healthcare visit.
- \* Adolescents at approximately age 15 years old or when entering high school, if not previously vaccinated with MCV4.
- \* College freshmen living in dormitories.
- \* Other populations at increased risk (i.e., military recruits, travelers to areas in which meningococcal disease is common or epidemic, microbiologists who are routinely exposed to meningococcal bacteria, patients with anatomic or functional asplenia, and patients with terminal complement deficiency).
- \* Other adolescents, college students, and persons infected with human immunodeficiency virus who wish to decrease their risk for meningococcal disease may also elect to receive the MCV4 vaccine.

The Department, along with the AAP and the ACIP, anticipate that the MCV4 vaccination of young adolescents 11-12 years old may strengthen the role of the pre-adolescent visit, will help to prevent this potentially deadly disease among adolescents, and have a positive effect on vaccine coverage in all affected groups.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

As a result of the ACIP and AAP recommendations, on February 7, 2005, the Department added the MCV4 vaccine to the PROMISe™ Drug/NDC Fee Schedule and the MA Outpatient Fee Schedule for all MA-eligible individuals. In addition, the Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) recently notified the Department that MCV4 has been approved for the VFC Program for ACIP recommended populations under the age of 19, effective October 1, 2005. This vaccine can now be ordered for MA-eligible recipients under the age of 19 through the VFC Program. However, to enable providers sufficient time to receive the vaccine from the VFC, MCV4 will continue to be compensable under the MA Program through dates of service November 1, 2005. MCV4 is also covered under the MA voluntary and mandatory managed care delivery systems.

The MA Program will reimburse VFC-enrolled providers for the administration of this vaccine. Providers may bill the Department for the administration of the MCV4 meningococcal conjugate vaccine using CPT code 90734 (Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, serogroups A, C, Y and W-135 [tetravalent], for intramuscular use). The MA fee for the administration of this vaccine is \$10.00 per administration. Providers participating in an MA Managed Care Organization (MCO) network must abide by payment arrangements as stated in their individual MCO contract.