
Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccines to Children and Adolescents

Purpose: To reduce morbidity and mortality from influenza by vaccinating all children and adolescents who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Policy: Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals (e.g., pharmacists), where allowed by state law, may vaccinate children and adolescents who meet any of the criteria below.

Procedure:

1. Identify children and adolescents ages 6 months and older who have not completed their influenza vaccination(s) for the current influenza season.
2. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to influenza vaccine:
 - a. **Contraindications:** a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction after ingesting eggs, after receiving a previous dose of influenza vaccine, or to an influenza vaccine component. For a list of vaccine components, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table-2.pdf. Do not give live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV; nasal spray) to people with a history of hypersensitivity to eggs, either anaphylactic or non-anaphylactic; pregnant adolescents; children younger than age 2 yrs; children age 2 through 4 yrs who have experienced wheezing or asthma within the past 12 mos, based on a healthcare provider's statement; or children or adolescents with chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (excluding hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematologic, or metabolic (e.g., diabetes) disorders; immunosuppression, including that caused by medications or HIV; long-term aspirin therapy (applies to a child or adolescent age 6 mos through 18 yrs).
 - b. **Precautions:** moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever; history of Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks of a previous influenza vaccination; for TIV only, allergic reaction to eggs consisting of hives only (observe patient for 30 minutes following vaccination); for LAIV only, close contact with an immunosuppressed person when the person requires protective isolation, receipt of influenza antivirals (e.g., amantadine, rimantadine, zanamivir, or oseltamivir) within the previous 48 hours or possibility of use within 14 days after vaccination
3. Provide all patients (or, in the case of a minor, their parent or legal representative) with a copy of the most current federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). You must document in the patient's medical record or office log, the publication date of the VIS and the date it was given to the patient (parent/legal representative). Provide non-English speaking patients with a copy of the VIS in their native language, if available and preferred; these can be found at www.immunize.org/vis.
4. Administer injectable trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV) intramuscularly in the vastus lateralis for infants (and toddlers lacking adequate deltoid mass) or in the deltoid muscle (for toddlers, children, and teens). Use a 22–25 g needle. Choose needle length appropriate to the child's age and body mass: infants 6 through 11 mos: 1"; 1 through 2 yrs: 1–1¼"; 3yrs and older: 1–1½". Give 0.25 mL to children 6–35 mos and 0.5 mL for all others age 3 yrs and older. (Note: A 5/8" needle may be used for patients weighing less than 130 lbs (<60kg) for injection in the deltoid muscle *only* if the skin is stretched tight, subcutaneous tissue is not bunched, and the injection is made at a 90-degree angle.) Alternatively, healthy children age 2 yrs and older may be given 0.2 mL of intranasal LAIV; 0.1 mL is sprayed into each nostril while the patient is in an upright position. Children age 6 mos through 8 yrs should receive a second dose 4 wks or more after the first dose if they are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or if they did not receive at least 1 dose of vaccine in the 2010–2011 vaccination season.
5. Document each patient's vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:
 - a. **Medical chart:** Record the date the vaccine was administered, the manufacturer and lot number, the vaccination site and route, and the name and title of the person administering the vaccine. If vaccine was not given, record the reason(s) for non-receipt of the vaccine (e.g., medical contraindication, patient refusal).
 - b. **Personal immunization record card:** Record the date of vaccination and the name/location of the administering clinic.
6. Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications.
7. Report all adverse reactions to influenza vaccine to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at www.vaers.hhs.gov or (800) 822-7967. VAERS report forms are available at www.vaers.hhs.gov.

This policy and procedure shall remain in effect for all patients of the _____ until rescinded or until _____ (date).
(name of practice or clinic)

Medical Director's signature: _____ Effective date: _____