

## Vaccines for Children Program

July 17, 2006

WELLCARE HEALTH PLANS, INC.  
THE WELLCARE GROUP OF COMPANIES

Dear Primary Care Provider,

In recent weeks, there have been quite a few communications regarding Vaccines for Children (VFC) reporting and Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS) vaccine administration submission.

While WellCare of Georgia, Inc. network contracted providers are required to "participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to help raise childhood immunization rates" and "report all immunizations to the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS) in a format to be determined by DCH," four messages need to be emphasized:

1. If you do not yet participate in the VFC program, please take steps to do so today. You can contact VFC program staff by calling (404) 657-3158. Additional information can be obtained by visiting the VFC Web site at

<http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization/>

2. If you do participate in the VFC program, please continue to complete required monthly reporting, which includes the Georgia VFC Program Comprehensive Report. Each form is pre-populated with your individual office's practice information and VFC ID number, which facilitates completion. Once these sheets are submitted, VFC staff will replenish vaccine inventory based on your practice needs. If your facility manages inventory in GRITS rather than faxing in the manual forms, you may continue to do so.

\*You will note that the Comprehensive Report provides a space to record PeachCare for Kids vaccinations depending upon whether the child is fee for service or enrolled in one of the three care management organizations (CMO): "WC" (WellCare), "PS" (Peach State) and "AG" (Amerigroup). In addition, there are separate Tally Sheets by CMO. We have been informed that making this designation for CMO members is appreciated, but not needed if your facility routinely submits immunization data to GRITS.

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VFC staff will know the member's CMO through receipt of membership listings from the Department of Community Health.

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3. If you do not yet submit immunization data to GRITS, please contact the registry program office today to begin this process. Staff can be reached by calling (404) 657-3166 (local) or (888) 223-8644 (toll free). Additional information can be viewed by accessing the GRITS Web site at <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization/grits/index.asp>

4. If you do record vaccine administration in GRITS and have an interest in also managing monthly vaccine reporting via GRITS, this can be accomplished by completing a required six month transitional process. During this six month period, you will be taking steps to ensure that immunization dose totals match usage records reported in GRITS. To start this process, contact the GRITS program office at (404) 657-3166 (local) or (888) 223-8644 (toll free).

WellCare of Georgia, Inc. thanks you for your participation in both of these worthwhile programs as we take steps to improve the health status and wellbeing of Georgia's children.

Sincerely,



John Esslinger, MD  
Senior Medical Director

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