



MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Molly Sander, MPH *MS*
Immunization Program Manager

RE: State-Supplied Vaccine Information Statements

DATE: November 14, 2011

As of January 1, 2012, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) immunization program will no longer be supplying copies of Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) to Prevention Partnership Providers. As of January 1, 2012, providers should have a different method of supplying VISs to parents/patients in place.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act of 1986 requires that immunization providers provide a copy of the applicable VIS for each vaccine administered at every visit. The legal mandate, as stated in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act, is that providers must:

- give the appropriate VIS to the recipient or to the recipient's parent or legal representative with each dose of vaccine,
- give it prior to administration of the vaccine,
- give it each time the vaccine is given (not just with the first dose), and
- record certain information in the patient's permanent medical record.

VISs may be offered in the following ways:

1. Always offer the patient or parent a copy of the appropriate VIS to read *during the immunization visit*, and a copy (either paper or electronic) to take home. Always offer the patient an opportunity to ask questions.
2. It is acceptable to make a VIS available to be read *before* the immunization visit (e.g., by giving the patient or parent a copy to take home during a prior visit, or telling them how to download or view a copy from the internet). We encourage this when possible. These patients must still be offered a copy to read during the immunization visit, as a reminder, and a copy to take home.
3. The patient may be offered a permanent (e.g., laminated) copy of the VIS to read during the immunization visit (instead of their own paper copy), or may be directed to the appropriate VIS on an office computer.

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4. Always encourage the patient to take a copy of each appropriate VIS home when they leave the office. This is because some information (e.g., the routine schedule, or how to recognize or report an adverse event) can be useful later. Offer the patient a paper copy, or if they prefer to download the VIS onto a mobile device, direct them to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/vis-downloads.htm during the visit.
5. As needed, supplement VISs orally, with videotapes, with additional printed material, or in any other way that will help recipients understand the disease and vaccine.

The NDDoH will continue to notify immunization providers via email when VISs are updated. Providers should ensure that the most up-to-date VIS is always being used. VIS procedures, including ensuring VISs are up-to-date, will continue to be monitored during VFC/AFIX site visits.

Please see the attached VIS instructions. Information about VISs, including the most up-to-date publication dates, is also available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm.

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.