

To: Illinois Health Connect PCPs

From: Margaret Kirkegaard, MD, MPH, IHC Medical Director

RE: Pediatric Immunization Outreach

Date: 30 November, 2011



Dear Illinois Health Connect PCP,

Illinois Health Connect (IHC) would like to inform you of a new public-private partnership between IHC and Pfizer to increase pediatric immunization rates in Illinois.

IHC will be identifying pediatric patients at ages 8 months and 17 months who are not up to date on their Pneumococcal vaccine. This will be done using claims data from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. While this initiative focuses solely on the Pneumococcal vaccine, as vaccines are generally given at the same time, most children who are behind on the Pneumococcal vaccine are also behind on other vaccines.

The outreach will be done through a service named Televox using mail and phone notifications to parents. Postcards will be sent to parents notifying them that their child is not up to date on the Pneumococcal vaccine. Televox will follow up with HIPAA-compliant automated phone calls reminding the parents to schedule a visit with their child's Primary Care Provider (PCP).

The Pneumococcal vaccine conjugate four-dose series is included in the Immunization Combo-3 Bonus Measure as part of the IHC Bonus Payment for High Performance. For more information on the IHC Bonus Payment, visit <http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com/qualitytools.aspx>, contact your IHC Quality Assurance Nurse or call the IHC Provider Services Help Desk at 877-912-1999, extension 3.

IHC recognizes that claims data may not accurately reflect clinical care rendered. Because of this you could receive calls from parents whose child is actually up to date on the Pneumococcal vaccine. We also are aware of the challenges of patient outreach. IHC recommends that our PCPs take advantage of any calls stemming from this outreach to review the patient's medical record and schedule appointments for other Healthy Kids services as needed.

This is a good opportunity to review the child's immunization record, check to see if child has had the recommended lead screenings, objective developmental screenings or other EPSDT services. For more information about Healthy Kids services, please review the Healthy Kids Handbook on the HFS website at www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/hk200.pdf.

If you have any questions about this initiative to improve rates of pediatric vaccines, please call me at 847-610-8422, extension 2218 or via email at mkirkegaard@automated-health.com.