

Immunization Resources

ACNM believes it is important for midwives to participate in improving the health of our nation and the world by actively promoting increased immunization rates in the families to whom we provide care.¹ Misinformation and rumors are common about vaccinations. The resources below will provide reliable information for midwives and their clients.

The CDC National Immunization Hotline and Information Services:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed extensive information for consumers and providers about vaccine safety. Their Hotline (800-232-2522), is for parents, providers or anyone interested in vaccine information. The Hotline also takes orders for **free publications** and offers **referrals to many immunization resources** such as clinics, coalitions, local and state programs, drug companies and others. **Live, trained specialists** answer in English and Spanish on weekdays, 8:00 am to 11:00 pm EST, either on the phone or at www.vaccines.ashastd.org/services.html. **Brochures include:**

- Vaccine Safety, Information for Parents
- Vaccine Safety, Information for Health Care Providers
- Immunization and Schools
- Immunization for Travelers
- Helping Parents Who Question Vaccines

The CDC National Immunization Program:

The National Immunization Program (NIP) provides leadership for planning, coordination, and conduct of immunization activities nationwide. NIP's website, www.cdc.gov/nip/default.htm, maintains up-to-date information on all vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. **Materials for health care providers**, including vaccine schedules, side effects, contraindications, recommendations and more, are available at www.cdc.gov/nip/home-hcp.htm. NIP houses the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which develops recommendations about all vaccines (see <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/acip/>). **The December 2006 Updated ACIP recommendations on immunizations in the U.S.** is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5515a1.htm>, and provides technical guidance about common vaccination concerns for clinicians. The NIP also publishes **Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)**, that explain vaccine benefits and risks to recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives. **Federal law requires that VISs be handed out whenever certain vaccinations are given.** See <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-facts.htm>.

For the most current information on the **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine**, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/hpv/default.htm>. See also the ACNM QuickInfo on HPV at www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/HPV_9.06.pdf.

Immunization Action Coalition:

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, works **to increase immunization rates and prevent disease** by creating and distributing **educational materials** for health professionals and the public that enhance the delivery of safe and effective immunization services. IAC also facilitates communication about the safety, efficacy, and use of vaccines within the broad community

¹ ACNM Position Statement on Immunization, http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/position/Immun_05.pdf

of patients, parents, health care organizations, and government health agencies. Their Web site is www.immunize.org. Other offerings of IAC include:

- Comprehensive information about a specific disease and the vaccine that prevents it. (www.vaccineinformation.org).
- Extensive **free print materials** in many languages (www.immunize.org/catg.d/free.htm) including the NIP's **Vaccine Information Statements**.
- **The Hepatitis B Coalition**, a program of IAC, promotes hepatitis B vaccination for all children 0-18 years of age, **HBsAg screening for all pregnant women**, testing and vaccination for high-risk groups, and education and treatment. (www.hepprograms.org)
- **A directory of immunization coalitions** (www.izcoalitions.org) that provides access to a database of local, state, regional, national, and international immunization coalitions.
- Three newsletters, *Needle Tips*, *Vaccinate Adults*, and *Vaccinate Women*, with a combined circulation of 335,000. *Vaccinate Women*, a semi-annual publication written for obstetrician/gynecologists, can be found at <http://www.immunize.org/vw/>.
- Two email news services: *IAC Express* provides timely news on a weekly basis to health professionals; to subscribe go to <mailto:express@immunize.org?Subject=SUBSCRIBE> and then click "send" in your email program. *HEP Express* is a monthly electronic newsletter devoted to news about hepatitis A, B, and C prevention and treatment; to subscribe go to www.hepprograms.org/hepexpress/signup.asp.

Professional Tools:

- **Immunization Techniques:** The California Department of Health Services Immunization Branch collaborated with national experts to develop this short training program, "Immunization Techniques: Safe, Effective, Caring," available in video and DVD. Designed for hands-on instruction of new staff and as a refresher for experienced vaccinators, it teaches best practices for administering intramuscular and subcutaneous vaccines to infants, children, and adults.
- **Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit:** This CD-ROM toolkit, recently updated by the CDC, provides comprehensive information about vaccine storage and handling on one CD. It also includes storage guidelines, two videos and an array of printed resources. For more information visit www.immunize.org/shop

Other Resources:

For Vaccine Information Statements in **audio, multimedia, DVD and video** formats, please go to:

- www.healthyroadsmedia.org
- <http://library.med.utah.edu/24languages/>.
- www.cdc.gov/nip/menus/pubs_resources.htm

For vaccine information for limited English or low literacy persons, including *Pepin* comic books about immunizations and vaccines, see http://www.migrantclinician.org/resources_search?filter_program=18.

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The ACNM "QuickInfo" series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact Professional Services at 240-485-1800 or info@acnm.org. Listing of other services and products does not imply endorsement by ACNM.