

**Virginia Health Commissioner's Pertussis Prevention Task Force
Minutes
November 3, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
109 Governor Street, Mezzanine Conference Room
Richmond, Virginia**

The Health Commissioner's Pertussis Prevention Task Force (HCPPTF) will discuss and develop pertussis prevention strategies and initiatives that will protect those most vulnerable to the spread of pertussis in Virginia. Recommendations are to be issued in a formal plan that addresses, at a minimum, the following areas: Public and private clinician outreach and education; targeted new parents/families and community vaccination campaigns; health care sector systems changes; and innovative models for vaccine delivery.

Members Present in Person

<i>proxy for</i> Dr. Steve Arnold (VA Assn of Health Plans)	<i>proxy for</i> Rebecca Mendoza (DMAS)
Deeva Berera (VDH-Prince William County HD)	Dr. Bill Moskowitz (Amer Academy of Ped)
Michelle Charters (Project Immunize Virginia)	Lisa Park (VDH-Healthcare Reimbursements)
Dr. Maureen Dempsey (VDH-Chief Deputy, Public Health)	Sandra Sommer (VDH-Immunization)
Rebecca Early (VDH-Immunization)	Laura Lee Viergever (VA Association of Health Plans)
Jim Farrell (VDH-Immunization)	Jodi Wakeham (VDH-Public Health Nursing)
Dr. Laurie Forlano (VDH-Deputy State Epidemiologist)	

Members Present by Conference Call

Chris Bailey (Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association)	Dr. Demetria Lindsay (VDH-Norfolk HD)
Dr. William Berg (VDH, Hampton HD)	<i>proxy for</i> Gwen Messler Harry (VACEP)
Dr. Shawn Borich (VA College of Emergency Physicians)	Tim Musselman (Virginia Pharmacists Association)
Dr. Dana Bradshaw (VDH-NW Region)	Dr. Holly Puritz (American Congress of OBs/GYNs)
Dr. Charles Devine (VDH-North Region)	Dr. Nancy Welch (VDH-East Region)
Dr. Heidi Kulberg (VDH-Chesapeake HD)	

Observers Present

Heather Crouch (GlaxoSmithKline) <i>conference call</i>	Ellen Shannon (Sanofi Pasteur) <i>conference call</i>
Lauren Bull (ACEP-AAP) <i>in person</i>	

Members Unable to Attend

Dr. Michael Ashby (Martha Jefferson Hospital)	Dr. Molly O'Dell (VDH-SW Region)
Doug Gray (VA Association of Health Plans)	Dr. Karen Remley (VDH-Commissioner)
Dr. Parham Jaberi (VDH-Central Region)	Jeniece Roane (Virginia Nurses Association)
Jeff Lake (VDH-Deputy Commissioner, CHS)	Dr. Jay Schukman (Anthem BC/BS)
Dr. Donald Lewis (Eastern VA Medical School)	Dr. Sandra Zieve (Patient First)

Welcome/Introductions – Forlano

- Task force issues addressed and progress achieved thus far was noted.
- Dates for future meetings—that will now change to quarterly

Updates on Priority Items

- **Off Label Use:** Dr. Forlano discussed different product inserts and their respective recommendation of use in different populations.
 - The issue raised at the first meeting was whether or not package inserts have been updated.

- Generally, package inserts are consistent but not sure if it reflects the proactive language.
- Heather Crouch spoke with the FDA— use in pregnancy has never been contra-indicated; strong new data supports the safety.
- This issue emphasizes the need for education and clarification and providing data showing it is the standard of care. If it has not been standard of care, it needs to be established.
- Crouch noted many other immunizations are category C partially due to obvious limitations on research in pregnant populations.
- Dr. Bradshaw noted there is a registry for adding women who are pregnant and receiving the booster.
- Dr. Puritz noted that ACOG (usually extremely conservative) recommends the booster after the second and third trimester; she will provide material showing this directive.
- Dr. Forlano emphasized that VDH will prepare education on this issue.
- **Co-Signed Letter for Healthcare Professional Colleagues:** Dr. Forlano noted the joint letter with recommendations is being sent for review and approval. The plan is to have associations send it to their respective memberships.

Tdap Coverage Update

- **Additional Tdap Doses:** VDH purchased 24,900 doses that were provided to local health districts (HDs), and 1,900 were administered.
 - At the end of October, the HDs administered 14,272 doses. (Most likely many were administered earlier but not recorded by end of September report).
 - Doses were administered at clinics onsite for school and daycare.
 - VDH still has 10,000 and 19,000 from first and second lot, respectively, and expect requests from free clinics, etc.
 - Requests are starting to increase and expect more to be reported next month.
 - Morbidity update—Since January 1 to date, 264 cases of Pertussis reported (very underreported). Last year 176 cases reported. Confirmed that VDH is reaching out to health centers as well.
- **Emergency Rooms (ERs):** As a follow up to the use of Tdap in ERs and concerns about a) the ER not having immunization records and b) the providers who may not be registered with VIIS, Dr. Forlano reported the following information:
 - The new guidance states no minimum interval is required between Tdap and Tetanus-containing vaccines.
 - Less than 6% of adult patients report having a Tdap in their lifetime. (*National Health Interview Survey*)

Cost in ERs: Dr. Forlano remarked (anecdotally) that ERs are doing a good job at stocking Tdap. The cost in ERs vs. HDs is \$30 vs. \$15, respectively; and insurance coverage can be a problem.

 - It may be easier to provide the immunization in Labor & Delivery than the ER, and TD is cheaper than Tdap.
 - Optimal solution is a team approach—hospitals, ER, physicians, task force.

- Dr. Kulberg noted that her EPI created a fact sheet on insurance coverage and off label use for the Chesapeake HD area (will send to Forlano for review and distribution).

Update on Query of Health Plans on Tdap Coverage

- **Laura Lee Viergever (VAHP)** provided information on VAHP members surveyed:
 - VAHP represents 10 plans in Virginia, and 70% responded.
 - Vaccines are covered as part of healthcare reform, are part of preventive healthcare, and should be covered
 - Grandfathered plans may or not cover.
 - Vaccines administered at provider offices are definitely covered.
 - About half of plans will cover at pharmacy, but they need a special plan with that pharmacy.
 - If recommended by provider at ER, then covered. If the provider in the ER does not participate in the patient's plan, then the vaccine is not covered. Sometimes hospitals are in-network but ER providers are not.

Report on Survey Findings

- **Rebecca Early (VDH)** presented the results from the hospital survey regarding employee immunization:
 - Dr. Forlano noted the results seem to echo what we expected, and she is pleased to see hospitals making it mandatory. She reaffirmed the need to provide some kind of best practices to the hospitals via hospital associations and local health departments.
 - It was asked if academic hospitals were included in the survey—representation in survey not a majority.
 - In early 2012, VHHA will convene a meeting with the Chief Medical Officers and Dr. Remley to include discussion of best practices and vaccines. Groups are already discussing this issue, and there are varying opinions. Further, the Task Force should be targeting best practices for healthcare workers in all settings.
 - Deeva Berera (VDH) shared the following: A CME class was presented by Dr. Gregory David at Prince William hospital in January. (Dr. David is affiliated with UVA and wrote a paper on Pertussis.) This class was a catalyst in moving the recommendation forward, and a significant amount of follow up was done. Additionally, the hospital offered free Tdap immunization to healthcare workers onsite after the CME.
 - Flyers promoting the immunization of healthcare workers are available on Immunize VA website under “Tools” (6 different versions); it can be downloaded and personalized for each practice (www.projectimmunizeva.org).
 - Rebecca Early has additional flyers from other states that will be adapted for Virginia use. PDF copies will be added to the VDH website.

Local Updates - Medicare and Medicaid Coverage Discussion

- **DMAS information:**
 - Medicare/Medicaid does not cover Tdap for anyone over age 20 unless “medically necessary.” The provider would need to submit with modifier 22 and medical notes.
 - Medicaid *Managed Care* does cover Tdap.

- The only non-EPSTD (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program) vaccines Virginia State Plan covers are flu and pneumonia.
- Virginia State Plan sometimes pays for a vaccine if a physician determines medical necessity, uses modifier 22, and attaches notes to prove medical necessity.
- Plans Reimbursing Providers and Currently Covering all Tdap Expenses:
 - Optima
 - Anthem
 - VA State Medicaid for Children
 - Commercial Plans
 - Tricare
 - Medicare Part D/ Prescription Plan.
- Plans NOT covering the Tdap Vaccine:
 - Medicare Part B (Medical Plan)
 - VA State Medicaid (adults).
- It was noted the rules are cumbersome, but it may be because the issue is new.
 - It was suggested the Task Force add a recommendation to Dr. Remley that this issue be addressed with DMAS and brought up to date. Adult vaccines in general are a newer standard of care and it is our job to send the message. Currently, uninsureds have an option of receiving vaccine at health departments.
 - ACIP meeting provided cost benefit with pregnant women:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip/downloads/mtg-slides-jun11/05-3-pertuss-tdap.pdf>
- The question was posed if DMAS has offered a state plan amendment to update the coverage? Response: Not aware of any amendment offered.
 - It was proposed to recommend that Virginia Medicaid plan provide coverage. Dr. Forlano acknowledged that it appears the general consensus is that we recommend this to Dr. Remley.

Discussion of Draft Recommendations and Summary

- Dr. Forlano reminded all that the Task Force will begin meeting quarterly.
- Dr. Forlano asked the members to think about recommendations to the Commissioner and to call or email her with their ideas. Best practices and legislation are clear recommendations so far.
- Dr. Dempsey suggested summarizing the Task Force and local groups' activities and progress to date and distribute among the Task Force members.
- Chris Bailey recommended—and all agreed—to create an FAQs document based on the theme from today's meeting, the Chesapeake HD flyer, and VAHP information presented.
- Forlano informed the group that the national AARP magazine article in November highlights Virginia's immunization campaign—will send link to everyone—
<http://www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/info-11-2011/grandparents-need-whooping-cough-vaccine-va.html>.

Adjournment—Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.