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- Molina Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Molina Medicare Options Plus
- Molina Dual Options Cal MediConnect Plan (Medicare-Medicaid Plan)
- Molina Marketplace (Covered CA)

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- Specialists**
  - Directs
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**FOR QUESTIONS CALL PROVIDER SERVICES:**

(855) 322-4075, Extension:

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## Medi-Cal Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Educational Article –2018 Vaccine Reminders

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers.

Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older without contraindications. Health care providers should offer vaccination by the end of October each year, if possible. Vaccination should continue to be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating and unexpired vaccine is available. Molina covers seasonal Influenza vaccines through the pharmacy benefit for members over the age of 18. This allows members to obtain the flu vaccine from their local retail pharmacy.

On July 2018, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that pertussis, better known as whooping cough, claimed the life of a San Bernardino County infant. This is the first confirmed infant death from the disease since 2016, when two deaths occurred. As a reminder, pregnant women should receive a Tdap shot at the earliest opportunity between 27 and 36 weeks' gestation of every pregnancy, even if previously immunized. This is vital to both decrease the risk of pertussis infection in the mother and provide the baby with antibody protection from the mother until the baby is old enough to be vaccinated (between six to eight weeks of age).

**To avoid the spread of pertussis, CDPH also recommends that:**

- Parents immunize their babies against pertussis as soon as possible. The first dose is recommended at two months of age, but can be given as early as six weeks of age.
- California 7th grade students receive a Tdap booster.
- Adults receive at least one Tdap booster.

Molina members age 19 and older can obtain Tdap vaccine through any contracted retail pharmacy.

Regarding Hepatitis B (HepB) Vaccine within the last year, ACIP and CDC have summarized and consolidated previously published recommendations for the prevention of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. Molina members age 19 and older can obtain Hepatitis B vaccine through any contracted retail pharmacy. Hepatitis A vaccines are also covered through the pharmacy benefit for member's age 19 and older.

*If you are not contracted with Molina and wish to opt out of the Just the Fax, call (855) 322-4075, ext. 127413  
Please leave provider name and fax number and you will be removed within 30 days.*

## **The consolidated recommendations include:**

- Universal HepB vaccination within 24 hours of birth for medically stable infants, followed by the completion of the vaccine series. Previous permissive language for delaying the birth dose until after hospital discharge has been removed.
- Testing all pregnant women for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and testing of HBsAg-positive pregnant women for HBV deoxyribonucleic acid (HBV DNA).
- Any infant who is born to an HBsAg-positive woman should receive the HepB vaccine and hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of birth, followed by the completion of the vaccine series and post-vaccination serologic testing.
- HepB vaccination for all children and adolescents 18 years of age or younger who have not been vaccinated previously.
- HepB vaccination for all adults at risk for HBV infection, including adults in settings with risk factors for HBV infection and adults requesting protection from HBV without acknowledgment of a specific risk factor.

On October 20, 2017, the FDA approved a vaccine for the prevention of herpes zoster, which contained recombinant glycoprotein E in combination with a novel adjuvant. The recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) consists of two doses, administered intramuscularly, two to six months apart. Molina covers herpes zoster vaccines for members age 50 and older without prior authorization through any contracted retail pharmacy.

## **At the October 2017 ACIP meeting, the following three proposed recommendations were presented to the committee and, after a public comment period, were approved by the voting ACIP members:**

- RZV is recommended for the prevention of herpes zoster and related complications for immunocompetent adults 50 years of age or older.
- RZV is recommended for the prevention of herpes zoster and related complications for immunocompetent adults who previously received zoster vaccine live (ZVL).
- RZV is preferred over ZVL for the prevention of herpes zoster and related complications.

Since 2015, numerous outbreaks of mumps have been reported across the U.S. in college campuses, prisons, and close-knit communities, including a large outbreak in northwest Arkansas in 2016, where almost 3,000 cases were reported. To address this public health problem, ACIP now recommends a third dose of a mumps virus-containing vaccine for people previously vaccinated with two doses who are identified by public health authorities as being part of a group or population at increased risk for acquiring mumps because of an outbreak. This third dose may be administered as measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine or measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine.

## **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Services Representative at (855) 322-4075. Please refer to the extensions on page one.