

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: August 2, 2021

Subject: National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

Summary: During NIAM, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana (ACLA) encourages you to ensure your patients are up to date on recommended vaccines. Research has consistently shown that healthcare professionals are the most trusted source of vaccine information for parents and patients. We would also like to make you aware of a free online course regarding the importance of HPV Vaccination.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the efforts of ACLA Healthcare professionals to protect patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccinations.

We encourage our healthcare professionals to use NIAM as an opportunity to access [CDC educational resources](#) like the [#HowIRecommend Video Series](#), which offers simple and practical guidance for having successful vaccine conversations with parents and patients. These short videos demonstrate how to make effective vaccine recommendations, address common vaccine questions, and take a team-based approach to vaccination.

CDC has also developed CME activities to help healthcare professionals have successful conversations with parents about vaccines. Access these CME activities at the links below:

- How Nurses and Medical Assistants Can Foster a Culture of Immunization in the Practice: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/vaccine-communication/foster-culture-of-immunization.html>
- Pediatric Immunization: Navigating Difficult Conversations with Parents: <https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/907254external icon>

The Public Health Foundation and CDC have developed a [digital communication toolkit](#) with messages and graphics tailored to your role as a healthcare professional emphasizing the importance of vaccinations for your patients. Show your practice's support of vaccinations throughout the month by using this content on your website and on social media. During NIAM and beyond, you can engage with CDC and other healthcare professionals on social media by using #ivax2protect in your posts.

As a reminder, PCPs are expected to complete required immunizations for children ages birth through 20 during well-child visits. In order to comply with this policy, PCPs should enroll in the Louisiana Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to receive vaccines without charge for Medicaid children ages birth through 18. To enroll, contact the Immunization Program Office at 504-838-5300.

***Please Note:** Louisiana Medicaid also considers beneficiaries ages 19 and 20 part of the EPSDT population and therefore age-appropriate immunizations are required, although outside of VFC.

Immunizations are also required for reporting The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) to the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA). The focused measures for HEDIS MY2021 include Childhood Immunizations (CIS), Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA), and Lead Screening in Children (LSC).

REFERENCE: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/index.html>

HEDIS Tip – Childhood Immunizations (CIS)

| Measurement Year 2021 | |
|--|---|
| Measure Description | Requirement |
| <p>Children 2 years of age who had the following administered on or before their second birthday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One MMR, one VZV, one Hep A administered on or between the child’s first and second birthdays. • Three Hep B with different dates of service before the second birthday or history of the illness. One of the three can be newborn (DOB to seven days after birth). • Three IPV, three Hib, four PCV, four DTaP, two or three RV. Do not count vaccinations administered prior to 42 days after birth. • Two influenza vaccines. Do not count vaccinations administered prior to six months (180 days) after birth. One of the two vaccinations can be LAIV administered only on the child’s second birthday. | <p>Documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A note indicating the name of the specific antigen and the date of the immunization. • A certificate of immunization prepared by an authorized health care provider or agency including the specific dates and types of immunizations administered. • Initial Hep B given “at birth” or “nursery/ hospital” should be documented in the medical record or indicated on the immunization record as appropriate. • Immunizations documented using a generic header (e.g., “polio vaccine”) or “IPV/OPV” can be counted as evidence of IPV. <p>Common chart deficiencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunizations administered after the second birthday. • Primary care provider (PCP) charts do not contain immunization records if received elsewhere such as health departments or those given in the hospital at birth. • No documentation of contraindications/allergies. • FluMist only meets criteria when administered on the second birthday. • A note that “member is up to date” with all immunization does not constitute compliance due to insufficient data. • Parental refusal does not meet compliance. <p><i>Please refer to the HEDIS Documentation and Coding Guidelines MY2020 and MY2021 on NaviNet.</i></p> |

HEDIS Tip – Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA)

| Measurement Year 2021 | |
|--|---|
| Measure Description | Documentation Requirement |
| <p>Adolescents 13 years of age who have completed each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meningococcal MCV (on or between 11th and 13th birthdays). | <p>Documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A note indicating the name of the specific antigen and the date of the immunization. • A certificate of immunization prepared by an authorized health care provider or agency including the specific dates and types of immunizations administered. |

| Measure Description | Documentation Requirement |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tdap or TD (on or between 10th and 13th birthdays). • HPV (three doses with different dates of service on or between ninth and 13th birthdays or two doses with at least 146 days between the first and second dose on or between ninth and 13th birthdays). | <p>Common chart deficiencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunizations administered outside of the appropriate time frames. • PCP charts do not contain records if immunizations administered elsewhere (e.g., health departments, school clinics, urgent care facilities). <p><i>Please refer to the HEDIS Documentation and Coding Guidelines MY2020 and MY2021 on NaviNet.</i></p> |

HPV Training:

AAP is offering a free, online course titled "HPV Vaccine: When, Why, and How" which addresses HPV vaccine and cancer prevention; recommending HPV vaccine; and increasing HPV vaccine rates. After completing the course, clinicians will be able to:

- Apply communication strategies to help parents vaccinate their adolescents against HPV
- Respond accurately and effectively to questions about HPV vaccination
- Plan ways to update office staff on HPV vaccination’s importance, safety, timing, and contraindications/precautions.

Please click the link [course](#) to sign up.

Questions: Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

Missed an alert?

You can find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.

Where can I find more information on COVID-19?

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for up-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.