

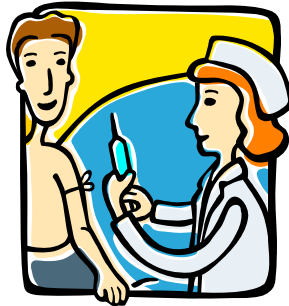
## 2005's NEW VACCINES TO WATCH: MENACTRA, BOOSTRIX, ADACEL

ABC Pediatrics wants you to be aware of some new vaccines available this year.

**Menactra**, the meningococcal vaccine, was approved this month to prevent meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease causes serious meningitis and blood infections. The disease is more likely to affect adolescents and young adults and can have devastating results. The new vaccine will be available for use in ages 11-55.

Specific recommendations for Menactra are not currently available. However, it is anticipated that the vaccine will be recommended for students entering college who will be living in dormitories, as well as new military recruits and other high-risk children who previously



received meningitis vaccination.

### Boostrix and Adacel

Boostrix and Adacel are both new combination vaccines that will add pertussis (whooping cough) coverage to the routine tetanus/diphtheria vaccine.

Currently our adolescent patients receive a "Td" vaccine (tetanus/diphtheria) at 11 or 12 years of age as part of the routine schedule prior to entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Now, Boostrix and Adacel will add the whooping cough vaccination without any additional shots. It is similar to the five "DTaP" vaccines that children receive prior to kindergarten.

Why the change? Immunity to pertussis decreases in late childhood. Furthermore, in 2003 pertussis rates were the highest recorded in 40 years, according to the January 2005 edition of *Infectious Diseases in Children*.

The syndrome associated with pertussis (or whooping cough) is mainly a prolonged cough characterized by up to 15 coughing spasms in 24 hours.

However, in very young children and older adults pertussis can be life threatening. The idea of adding this vaccine is to prevent pertussis in all ages.

## 49 STATES MEET FLU VACCINE DEMAND; PREVNAR AVAILABLE AND SUCCESSFUL

Because chances are good you've heard enough bad news about the flu vaccine shortage this year, we thought you might be interested in hearing the good news story.

Despite the media frenzy late last year that there would not be enough vaccine to go around, most states have actually met their demand for influenza vaccine. Forty-nine states had a vaccine on hand for at least 82% of patients seeking them, according to the Janu-

ary issue of *Infectious Diseases in Children*.)

In addition, overall the flu season started out mild. The only state reporting widespread influenza is New York (as of Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>). The bad news is that New York is only a short bus ride away. It is not too late to get immunized!

### Prevnar

Prevnar, the pneumococcal vaccine, has been in short supply due to high demand since its release in 2000. How-

ever, currently it is meeting demands.

Prevnar is part of the routine schedule for infants and is given at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age. The good news is that despite the earlier shortages, it is working. The rates of serious infections such as meningitis and blood infections in young children are plummeting.

The great news is that by vaccinating young children, infection rates in the over 65 population (the other high risk group) is also decreasing.



### Dr. Jan Floyd joins ABC Pediatrics at 17th St. location

Dr. Jan Floyd joined ABC Pediatrics starting in February.

Dr. Floyd is new to Allentown, and comes to us from Fort Knox, Kentucky, where she served for four years as a pediatrician for and a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corp.

Prior to her work at Fort Knox, Dr. Floyd completed her residency training at Tripler Army Medical Center in Oahu, Hawaii.

Dr. Floyd is a graduate of Wright State Medical School in Dayton, Ohio. She is married and has three children, ages 7, 5 and 6 months.