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World Pneumonia Day – November 12, 2010

- Can We Do a Better Job on Vaccination to Fight Pneumonia?

November 12, 2010 – The Second Annual World Pneumonia Day¹

Pneumonia kills more children than any other illness; among approximately 9 million children aged <5 years who die each year worldwide, 1.6 million die from pneumonia. Through the Global Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia, the World Health Organization and international partners recommend that the global health burden of pneumonia be reduced by 1) using vaccines against organisms that cause pneumonia, 2) providing appropriate care and treatment for persons who contract pneumonia, and 3) promoting preventive measures such as exclusive breastfeeding of infants during their first 6 months of life.

Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus) and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) account for approximately 60% of pneumonia deaths worldwide of children aged 1 month--5 years in countries that do not use pneumococcal or Hib conjugate vaccines. In the United States, pneumococcal and Hib conjugate vaccines are recommended for infants and children aged <2 years as part of the routine infant immunization schedule and have reduced morbidity and mortality from pneumococcal disease by 76% and from Hib disease by >99% among children aged <5 years. In 2010, a 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was licensed and recommended in the United States. Collaborative international efforts are expanding use of these vaccines in developing countries.

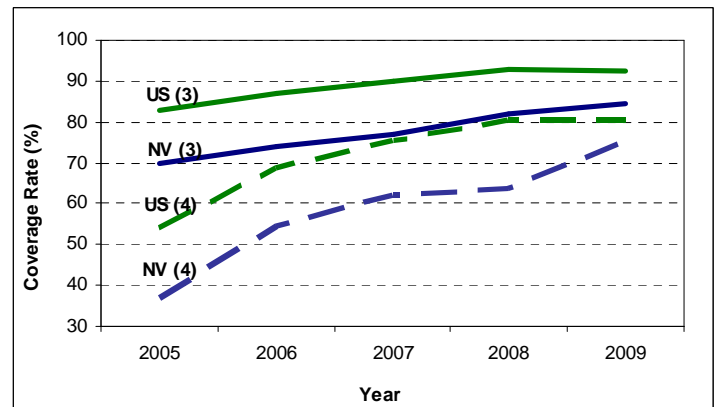
Respiratory viruses, such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza, and measles, also are major causes of pneumonia globally. In 2005, an estimated 33.8 million episodes of RSV-associated acute lower respiratory infection occurred in children aged <5 years worldwide. Recent studies suggest that 6%--10% of childhood pneumonia is associated with influenza. Use of influenza and measles vaccines, antiviral medications, and

supportive health care can reduce the burden of pneumonia caused by these viruses.

Review National and Statewide Immunization Rate for Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)

The annual National Immunization Survey (NIS) indicates that the vaccination coverage rate in the state of Nevada was consistently lower than the national coverage rate during the past five years. In 2009, the estimated coverage with 3 or more doses of PCV was 92.6% (95% CI: 91.9%-93.3%) in the U.S. versus 84.5% (95% CI: 79.6%-89.4%) in Nevada. The estimated coverage with 4 or more doses of PCV was 80.4% (95% CI: 79.3%-81.5%) in the U.S. versus 75.1% (95% CI: 69.4%-80.8%) in Nevada. See Figure 1 for the trend during past five years. On a positive note the coverage rate in Nevada improved significantly from 2007 to 2009. This can be attributed to regulation which became effective October 31, 2007 requiring children enrolled in a childcare facility in Nevada to be vaccinated against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. However, we have a lot of work to do in an effort to reach the national coverage rate.

Figure 1. Estimated Vaccination Coverage with 3+ or 4+ Doses of PCV among Children 19-35 Months of Age, U.S. and Nevada, 2005-2009



Data source: National Immunization Survey
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm

For more information on vaccination against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection, please refer to ACIP's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#pcv.

¹ Information under this entire section is from CDC's MMWR. CDC. Announcement: World Pneumonia Day – November 12, 2010. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). November 5, 2010. Vol. 59, No. 43.

Please share this information with all physicians/staff in your facility/office.