

Sept 19, 2005

Practice News

Welcome to the fall issue of the Pediatric Partners Electronic Newsletter. For those of you who have visited our web site at Pediatricpartnerssc.com you will have noticed we have had some recent changes made to our staff. First, we are saddened by Dr. Heidi Kramer's departure from our group, but happy that she will be using her free time to be with her 2 children. We have also had new additions to our nursing and office staff. Alyssa Roche LPN, in addition to her regular office duties is a certified lactation consultant and will be a great resource for our breast feeding infants and their mothers. Kelly Borgardt RN is also joining our staff and looks forward to contributing to the care of our patients and families.

Update on Immunizations:

FLU

Hard to believe but the flu season is sneaking up on us again so flu vaccine season is upon us. We have just received our first shipment of flu vaccine and will begin vaccinating our at risk patients immediately. Patients eligible to be vaccinated now include babies between the ages of 6 and 24 months and children with certain underlying medical conditions such as asthma, along with their household contacts.. We fully expect to receive more vaccine, but as per the guidelines of the center for disease control, we will not begin general vaccination until after October 24. If your child received a letter advising her to get vaccinated, or you know your child to be in a high risk situation, please call as soon as possible to set up an appointment. Other families should contact our office in mid October to set up appointments for later in the month, and in November.

Please be aware that although we contracted for plenty of vaccine, we cannot guarantee the availability of flu vaccine until it actually arrives.

MENINGITIS

Some of our families who have been in with their preteens have already had the opportunity to discuss with us a new option for protecting their children against meningitis. Meningococcal meningitis is a very aggressive, but rare form of bacterial meningitis. Until recently, only young adults going to college were vaccinated against this illness because they were at the highest risk, and the available vaccine had a short period of protection (less than 5 years). Recently, a new vaccine has become available that protects for a longer period of time (more than 8 years) which allows us to vaccinate younger children (11 and 12 year olds) to provide them extra years of protection, and still provide protection when they go off to the dorms. The vaccine, Menactra, will be offered to preteens, and those students going into high school or college.

GET THAT TV OUT OF THE BEDROOM!

That's the message of a recent study from Johns Hopkins and Stanford Universities that showed that kids with televisions in their bedrooms scored significantly worse on standardized tests than counterparts who did not (results were controlled for education levels of parents). Having access to a computer had the opposite effect, and children who had access to a computer, but no TV, did the best.

ENJOY THE SEASON!

Pediatric Partners, S.C.