

# The **Maternal Immunization Working Group (MIWG)** of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee

## Working Group Update and Progress

NVAC Meeting

February 2013

### MIWG Co-Chairs:

Dr. Richard Beigi, MD

Dr. Catherine Torres, MD

# The NVAC Charge for MIWG

## Charge

The Assistant Secretary for Health charges the NVAC to:

- Review the current state of maternal immunization and existing best practices
- Identify programmatic barriers to the implementation of current recommendations related to maternal immunization and make recommendations to overcome these barriers
- Identify barriers to and opportunities for developing vaccines for pregnant women and make recommendations to overcome these barriers

## Approval

- NVAC accepted the charge and formation of the MIWG on June 5, 2012
- MIWG was formed in August 2012 to address the charge

# Membership

**NVAC** Catherine Torres (Co-chair), Rich Beigi (Co-chair)  
Walt Orenstein, Phil LaRussa, Amy Pisani, Thomas Stenvig, LJ Tan, Vish Viswanath,  
Clement Lewin, Seth Hetherington

**Federal Ex Officio Members** Jennifer Liang, Norma Allred, Erin Kennedy, Kris Sheedy, Jenny Mullen (CDC)  
Marion Gruber, Valerie Marshall, Jennifer Read (FDA)  
Barbara Mulach, Mirjana Nesin, Claire Schuster (NIH)  
Anna Jacobs (OGC/DHHS)  
Iris Mabry-Hernandez (AHRQ)  
Richard Martinello (VA)  
Hani Atrash, Juliann DeStefano (HRSA)  
Jennifer Mbutia (DoD)  
Tina Tah, Amy Groom (IHS)

**Subject Matter Experts** Isaac Goldberg, Bernard Gonik, Carol Baker, Michael Katz

**Liaison Representatives** Wayne Rawlins, Natalie Slaughter (America's Health Insurance Plans)  
Gina Burns (Group B Strep Association)  
Rahn K Bailey (National Medical Association)  
Elena V. Rios (National Hispanic Medical Association)  
Catherine Ruhl (Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses)  
Audrey Stevenson (American Nurses Association)  
Phil Heine (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)  
Elizabeth Rosenblum (American Academy of Family Physicians)

**NVPO Staff** Mark Grabowsky, Jennifer Gordon, Ankita Nigam

**Special Assistant** Katy Seib

# Focus Areas of Working Group Discussions

## Vaccines currently recommended for pregnant women (influenza and pertussis)

- i. **Background**
  - i. Epidemiology of these diseases in pregnant women and in infants
  - ii. Rationale for use of vaccines during pregnancy
  - iii. Immunization coverage among pregnant women
- ii. **Barriers and federal opportunities to overcome these barriers**
  - i. Patient barriers
  - ii. Provider barriers

## Vaccines under development (i.e. GBS)

- i. **Overview of the rationale for the development of these vaccines**
- ii. **What are the barriers to development and the federal opportunities to overcome these barriers**

## Communication issues surrounding maternal immunization

- i. **Overview of the different modes of communication**
- ii. **Discussion on communicating risks and benefits of vaccines to patients**

# Process for Developing Recommendations

Recommendations are developed through an iterative process with input from MIWG members and other subject matter experts

## August 2012 – February 2013

- Experts present to the working group (WG) with an overview of key focus areas during bimonthly or monthly calls

## March 2013 – May 2013

- WG members provide discussion, comments and revisions on the proposed recommendations during monthly calls and through written input. WG will draft the report based on member discussions and feedback.

## June 2013

- Presentation of draft recommendations for NVAC consideration and feedback.

## July 2013

- Draft report shared for public comment.

## August 2013

- Public comments are incorporated. The report and recommendations are reviewed.

## September 2013

- Recommendations and report are presented to the full NVAC for consideration and vote.

# Past Working Group Meetings

## August 2012 (1 meeting)

- The inaugural MIWG Meeting

## September 2012 (2 meetings)

- Discussion on the epidemiology of **pertussis** and **influenza** in pregnant women and infants, rationale for use of these vaccines during pregnancy, and immunization coverage among pregnant women

## October 2012 (2 meetings)

- Discussion on **patient barriers** to currently recommended vaccines and opportunities to overcome these barriers

## November 2012 (2 meetings)

- Discussion on **provider barriers** to currently recommended vaccines and opportunities to overcome these barriers
- Discussion on **vaccine financing & vaccine liability**

## December 2012 (2 meetings)

- Discussion on **public financing** – Medicare and CHIP coverage of immunization in pregnant women
- Discussion on the epidemiology of **GBS** and the vaccine currently in development for pregnant women and its rationale for use in pregnancy

## January 2013 (1 meetings)

- Discussion on the **development of vaccines** for use in pregnant women: barriers to the development of these vaccines and opportunities to overcome these barriers

# Future WG Meetings

## February 2012 (2 meetings)

- Discussion on communication issues surrounding maternal immunization
  - **February 13<sup>th</sup>**: Understanding Risk: Strategies for optimizing risk communication regarding pregnancy and immunizations.
  - **February 27<sup>th</sup>**: Communicating with pregnant and post-partum women about immunizations: challenges, opportunities, and key considerations.

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION