Did You Know?

Guidelines

IDSA Issues New Vaccine Guideline for Immunocompromised Patients

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) has issued a new guideline titled “Clinical Practice Guideline for the Vaccination of the Immunocompromised Host” to recommend that individuals with compromised immune systems get the flu shot and other vaccinations. These individuals tend to have lower vaccination rates in part because their doctors may be concerned about vaccine effectiveness and safety.

The guideline includes recommendations for most available vaccines, including measles, mumps and rubella, hepatitis A, pneumococcus, herpes zoster and influenza. Published in the Dec. 5 edition of Clinical Infectious Diseases, the guideline was written to fill a void in comprehensive recommendations for vaccinations for many different types of patients who are immunocompromised. It is also intended to help primary care physicians and specialists who treat immunocompromised patients, as well as people who live with these patients. “The guideline provides ‘one-stop shopping’ for clinicians caring for children and adults with compromised immune systems and includes recommendations and evidence for most vaccinations, from influenza to chicken pox,” said Larry Rubin, the lead author of the guideline. “Previously, the recommendations were difficult to retrieve because, in most cases, information has to be accessed individually by vaccine rather than by the category of patient disease.”

The guideline will be available in mobile device, pocket-sized quick-reference editions, and on the IDSA website at www.idsociety.org.

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