

CLINICAL **ADVISORY**

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PharMerica

New and Updated Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) Available for COVID-19 and RSV Vaccines

ISSUE

On October 19, 2023, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a **new [COVID-19 VIS](#)** and an **updated [RSV VIS](#)**.

Per the agency, “We [the CDC] encourage providers to begin using these VISs immediately, but stocks of previous editions may be used until exhausted.”

BACKGROUND

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are published by the CDC to inform vaccine recipients (or parents/legal representatives) about the benefits and risks of a vaccine they are receiving.

All vaccine providers are required (per NCVIA – [42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26](#)) to provide the appropriate VIS to their patients prior to every dose of *specific* vaccines. Beyond this federal rule for select vaccines, providers may be expected to offer VIS for other vaccines per state/local law or organizational policy. Patients may decline a copy of the VIS, but the offer must still be made.

VISs may also be used for **informed consent** purposes as long as they conform to the appropriate state laws, as they adequately detail the risks and benefits associated with the vaccine(s).

ACTION STEPS

- All healthcare providers administering vaccines should be aware of their duty to provide VISs prior to vaccination.
- Providers should ideally move to using these new and updated VISs immediately, but may choose to first exhaust existing stock of the printed ‘prior-edition’ VISs.
- If exhausting existing stock of prior-edition VIS, providers are responsible for educating vaccine recipients of any outdated or altered material for current and accurate information.
- Vaccine providers are always responsible for helping recipients understand the disease and vaccine (e.g., using other means if they are unable to read the VIS) and offering the patient an opportunity to ask questions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can I access the CDC’s complete list of VISs?

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/current-vis.html>

In what ways can my vaccine providers “give” a VIS?

- Paper copies of the VIS can be printed and given to patients prior to vaccination.
- Permanent, laminated office copies may be given to patients to read prior to vaccination.
- Patients may view VISs on a computer monitor or other video display.
- Patients may read the VIS on their phone or other digital device by downloading the pdf file from CDC’s website.
- Patients may be given a copy of a VIS during a prior visit, or told how to access it through the internet.

Are the VIS available in other languages?

VISs have been translated into about 40 languages. These can be found on the website of CDC’s partner, the [Immunization Action Coalition](#). Not every VIS has been translated into every language.