Meningococcal Disease Prevention Starts With Vaccination

Contracting meningococcal disease can lead to devastating neurological outcomes. Most meningococcal disease is preventable with vaccination. Talking with parents about the risks of meningococcal disease, discussing when to vaccinate and scheduling a vaccination appointment will decrease the likelihood of their child contracting the disease. A high-quality recommendation by the provider and staff to vaccinate has been shown to produce a vaccination uptake of 73%.¹

Who should get vaccinated?
The early childhood meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY) vaccine helps protect against causes of meningococcal diseases. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a routine MenACWY for 11 and 12-year-olds with a booster dose at 16 years old. This vaccine does not protect against Meningococcal Serogroup B (MenB).

The CDC recommends a vaccination for MenB for people 16-18 years old. About 60% of meningococcal disease cases in individuals younger than 25 years old are caused by MenB.² MenB infection can spread rapidly through the body and lead to death.

More Info
Reference the BCBSTX Preventive Care Guidelines (PCGs), Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) and THSteps for Medical Providers for more information on this and other important topics for treating your patients.

References
¹ Lori Anderson MD (2019, October), Tackling the Tough Topics: Outreach to Parents. Lecture conducted from the Texas Immunization Conference, United States.