



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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New 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13) is Now Available through VFC

Dear VFC Provider,

Effective Monday March 22, 2010, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program will begin fulfilling all vaccine requests for pneumococcal conjugate vaccine with the new 13-valent vaccine (PCV13). This new vaccine, licensed by FDA on February 24, 2010, under the same trade name of Prevnar™, will replace the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7).

UNUSED INVENTORY OF PCV7

- Providers with existing supplies of PCV7 should return unused doses to VFC's national vaccine distributors as soon as requested doses of PCV13 arrive.
- **Doses must be returned by April 30th, 2010.** The new federal contract price for each 10-dose box of this product is \$917.50. Please ensure your clinic returns any unused doses for significant cost savings to the program.
- Unused doses should be returned following the same return procedure for non-viable VFC vaccine returns. A VFC Return/Transfer Form must be included in the vaccine shipment and also faxed to the VFC Program. You may obtain a copy at www.eziz.org. A return label may be requested by contacting the VFC Program's Customer Service Center.

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDERS

- In an effort to reduce existing PCV7 inventories, VFC actively reduced provider requests for this vaccine during the past 4 weeks.
- If your clinic received a reduced order for PCV7, you may re-submit a supplemental order for PCV13 to last until your next regular order.

PRODUCT INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

- An official VFC Program letter including detailed information on the product's transition, vaccine composition, dosing and recommended schedules is currently being finalized. It will be emailed to your clinic's provider of record, as indicated during your clinic's VFC Recertification. The letter will also be posted on VFC's website at www.eziz.org.

If you have any questions about this process, please call VFC's Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.

**Would you like to receive VFC communications via e-mail?
Visit our website at www.eziz.org and register to receive electronic updates.**