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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Acting Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: PedvaxHIB[®] Returns to Market

The vaccine supply of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib)-containing vaccines in the U.S has returned to normal levels. Children are recommended to receive their full series of Hib vaccines, including any doses missed or deferred during the recent vaccine shortage.

Merck's Hib vaccine, PedvaxHIB[®], is again routinely available for providers through the VFC Program. This means that VFC providers may choose which Hib-containing vaccines they would like to use within their practices.

Current Hib-containing Vaccine Supply

The 4 Hib-containing vaccine products listed in the table below are currently available for ordering through the California VFC Program. Please note that the primary series consists of two doses for PedvaxHIB[®] as compared to three doses for ActHIB[®] or Pentacel[®]. Hiberix[®] is only a booster dose.

<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Primary Series</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Hib	ActHIB [®]	sanofi pasteur	2, 4, and 6 months	12-15 months
DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel [®]	sanofi pasteur	2, 4 and 6 months	12-15 months
Hib	PedvaxHIB [®] +	Merck	2 and 4 months	12-15 months
Hib	Hiberix [®]	GSK	Not indicated	12-15 months for children who have received doses in the primary series*.

*Hiberix[®] is indicated only for the booster dose. A booster dose of Hiberix[®] may be administered at 12 – 15 months as long as the minimum interval of 8 weeks since the previous Hib dose is met.

+Can be used for all children, but should especially be targeted for use in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children living in AI/AN communities.

Product Interchangeability

All of the Hib-containing products are interchangeable except for Hiberix[®], which is only licensed for the booster dose for any of other Hib-containing vaccines. Hiberix[®] comes as a lyophilized powder that must be reconstituted with sterile saline from the accompanying prefilled syringe.

Selecting Products for Your Practice

The decision on which Hib vaccine to use should be carefully discussed by clinicians and all staff involved in administering, ordering, and storing immunizations in your practice. Practices considering switching Hib-containing vaccines (especially combination vaccines) should consider how the new vaccine will be integrated with all other vaccines that the practice currently uses.

Current VFC vaccine inventory should be depleted before using new supplies to minimize vaccine wastage of federally-purchased vaccines and a potential financial liability to your practice.

Child Care Requirements

The recent special schedule which requires one dose of a Hib containing vaccine at any age for entry into childcare for children 12 months to 4.6 years will remain in effect for 2010.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at: 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC). You can also visit our website at www.eziz.org.

cc: CDPH Immunization Branch Field Representatives
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