



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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Pentacel[®] Vaccine Supply Delays

Dear VFC Provider,

Sanofi Pasteur has recently notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about expected manufacturing delays for Pentacel[®] (DTaP-IPV/Hib combination vaccine), which are expected from now through the summer of 2016. The number of doses available nationwide is expected to be 70% of normal supply. In order to manage this supply limitation, CDC has instituted a limit on the number of Pentacel[®] doses states can order on a monthly basis. Until this situation is resolved, California's VFC Program will be instituting a similar limitation on all Pentacel[®] orders.

Childhood immunizations should NOT be deferred or delayed due to this vaccine's unavailability. Individual vaccine components, DTaP, IPV and Hib vaccines, are available in adequate supplies from Sanofi and other manufacturers, to compensate for the Pentacel[®] supply reduction and meet provider demand.

The following ordering guidelines will be in place until vaccine supply levels return to normal:

- **Temporary Unavailability:** Pentacel[®] is currently unavailable for vaccine ordering due to supply limitations. Orders for this product will resume in January 2016.
- **Order restrictions:** All providers are restricted to a monthly vaccine supply, consisting of 70% of the clinic's monthly Pentacel[®] usage. Current vaccine inventory and usage is taken into account when approving orders.
- **Order submission:** Providers on an "every two month or quarterly" ordering cycle placing routine orders during the shortage will have Pentacel[®] orders approved based on the restricted monthly supply. Supplemental Pentacel[®] orders may be submitted in-between ordering cycles.
- **Strategic use of limited doses:** Pentacel[®] doses should be used for the primary dose series. Individual vaccine components DTaP and Hib should be used for the 15-18 month booster doses. IPV does not need to be given at the 15-18 month visit because 3 doses of IPV fulfill the primary recommendation.
- **Staff Education:** Providers should review the specific age indications and recommended dosing schedule for all vaccines with staff to ensure familiarity with alternative products.

A VFC Program letter containing additional details about the Pentacel[®] delay will be sent to VFC providers at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Customer Service Center at 1-877-243-8832.

Are you not receiving VFC's emailed program letters and communications?

Visit our website at www.eziz.org and log into MyVFCVaccines to check your email address. Also be sure to check your spam folder!