



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
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Pentacel[®] Vaccine Supply Delay – Status Update

Dear VFC Provider,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received updated information from Sanofi Pasteur regarding the status of their Pentacel[®] (DTaP-IPV/Hib combination vaccine) supply. In December 2015, Sanofi Pasteur announced expected manufacturing delays for its Pentacel[®] product. According to Sanofi's recent update, "while progress has been made regarding this vaccine delay, there is a need to extend allocations into the second half of 2016". At this point, Sanofi does not have a firm or estimated date for the resolution of this vaccine supply limitation.

In order to manage this supply limitation, CDC will continue to allocate Pentacel[®], DAPTACEL[®], IPOL[®], and ActHib[®] doses to states on a monthly basis. Until this situation is resolved, California's VFC Program will continue to have controlled ordering for these products at the current levels.

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 continue to be in place until vaccine supply levels return to normal:

- **Order restrictions:** All providers are restricted to a monthly vaccine supply, consisting of 85% of the clinic's average 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 vaccine orders during the shortage will have Pentacel[®] orders approved based on the restricted monthly supply. However, monthly Pentacel[®] orders can 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.

For more information about the Pentacel[®] delay, please refer to the VFC Letter sent on December 23, 2015.

http://eziz.org/assets/docs/vfcletter_2015_12-23_Temporary%20Decrease%20in%20Pentacel%20Vaccine%20Supply.pdf

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!