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GAVIN NEWSOM
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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

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

SUBJECT: **Addition to the VFC formulary: 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15)**

Dear VFC Provider,

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has licensed and the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued recommendations for the 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15).

Key updates include:

- PCV13 and PCV15 can be used interchangeably according to currently recommended PCV13 dosing and schedules.
- The definition of persons 2-18 years at increased risk of pneumococcal disease who are also recommended for PPSV23 has not changed.

Vaxneuvance (Merck) is a 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine indicated for active immunization for the prevention of invasive disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes 1,3,4,5,6A,6B,7F,9V,14,18C,19A,19F,22F,23F, and 33F in individuals 6 weeks of age and older. ACIP recommends use of PCV (either PCV13 or PCV15) for all children aged 2–59 months ([ACIP immunization schedules](#)). Detailed information and recommendations can be found [in this updated publication](#).

Per [VFC resolution](#), both PCV13 and PCV15 will be available through the VFC program. VFC supplies of Vaxneuvance may be given to any VFC-eligible child:

- 6 weeks through 59 months of age
- 60 through 71 months with certain underlying medical conditions*
- 6 through 18 years of age who are at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease because of anatomic or functional asplenia, including sickle cell disease, HIV-infection or other immunocompromising condition, cochlear implant, or cerebrospinal fluid leak.



*Immunocompetent persons with chronic heart disease, chronic lung disease, diabetes mellitus, cerebrospinal fluid leaks, Cochlear implant; immunocompromised persons with sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies, congenital or acquired asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV infection, chronic renal failure and nephrotic syndrome, diseases associated with immunosuppressive chemotherapy, or radiation therapy. See [VFC resolution, Table 1](#) for more details.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Detailed information can be found in the [Vaxneuvance FDA package insert](#).

Vaxneuvance is supplied as a 0.5mL single-dose prefilled syringe. Store refrigerated at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).

DO NOT FREEZE. Protect from light.

VFC ORDERING

In addition to PCV13, PCV15 is now available to order through [MyVFCvaccines](#). If your practice plans on switching to PCV15 from PCV13, please submit a "[Provider Request Form to Update Vaccine Brand Products Administered](#)," keeping in mind:

- Careful consideration should be given when selecting alternative brands or products in order to minimize the impact on provider practices.
- Implementation of a different vaccine brand or product should be approved by your practice's medical director or Provider of Record.
- Staff should be thoroughly informed and educated on changes to vaccines and its impact on vaccine ordering, storage, administration, and documentation.
- As your practice transitions to a new product, managing on-hand inventory appropriately is a key factor in preventing unnecessary vaccine wastage. Your initial request for a new vaccine product may be reduced to help minimize vaccine waste as you transition from the product currently being used by your practice.
- A plan to deplete excess inventory must be in place prior to transitioning to a new product. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure all VFC-supplied vaccines are used prior to their expiration date or transferred to another VFC Provider who can use them. Viable unused doses of these individual vaccines cannot be returned to the VFC Program.

BILLING FOR VFC PCV15

CHDP Providers

Claims may be submitted for VFC-supplied doses of Vaxneuvance administered to CHDP-eligible patients through age 18 years. Please refer to the CHDP Provider manual and relevant [CHDP Provider Information Notice](#). For additional questions, CHDP providers may contact their [County CHDP Program](#).

Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS)

To bill Medi-Cal FFS for administration of VFC-supplied doses of PCV15, use the appropriate CPT-4 code, followed by the “-SL” modifier, of **90671-SL**. Providers will only be reimbursed for the administration fee when using VFC vaccines for Medi-Cal FFS-eligible patients.

For specific information and details on Medi-Cal billing, please refer to the [Medi-Cal provider manual on VFC](#). Providers with questions on Medi-Cal billing policies and procedures and Provider manual information may call the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555.

Medi-Cal Managed Care

Please contact the specific Medi-Cal managed care health plan for information on immunization billing and reimbursement.

Other codes for the use of Vaxneuvance and Priorix not supplied by VFC

- The CPT-4 code for **Vaxneuvance** is **90671**
- The ICD-10-CM code for an encounter for immunization is **Z23**.

Resources

- [ACIP Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#)
- [MMWR: Updated Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing – For Children](#)
- [Vaxneuvance FDA Package insert](#)
- [VFA/VFC Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines Table](#)
- [VFC resolutions](#)