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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

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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: **New formulation of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20; Pevnar) to replace existing PCV13**

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 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20).

Key updates include:

- Children ages 2-23 months should receive either PCV15 or PCV20 according to recommended dosing and schedules.
- PCV15 or PCV20 can be used for catch-up vaccination for healthy children ages 24-59 months.
- Children ages 2-18 years with any risk condition who have received all recommended doses before age 6 years do not need additional doses if they have received at least one dose of PCV20. If they received PCV13 or PCV15 but not PCV20, they should receive a dose of PCV20 or pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) using the previously recommended doses and schedules.
- Children ages 6-18 years with any risk condition who have not received any dose of PCV13, PCV15 or PCV20 should receive a single dose of PCV15 or PCV20. When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of PPSV23 at least eight weeks later if not previously given.

Pevnar 20 (Pfizer) is a 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine indicated for active immunization for the prevention of

1. invasive disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes 1,3,4,5,6A,6B,7F,8,9V,10A,11A,12F,14,15B,18C,19A,19F,22F,23F, and 33F in individuals 6 weeks of age and older.



2. Otitis media caused by *S. pneumoniae* serotypes 4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F, and 23F in individuals 6 weeks through 5 years of age.
3. Pneumonia cause by *S. pneumoniae* serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 8, 9V, 10A, 11A, 12F, 14, 15B, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, and 33F in individuals 18 years of age and older.

ACIP recommends use of PCV15 or PCV20 for all children aged 2–59 months ([ACIP immunization schedules](#)). ACIP pneumococcal vaccine recommendations can be found [here](#).

Per [VFC resolution](#) 6/23-2, both PCV15 and PCV20 will be available through the VFC program. VFC supplies of Prevnar may be given to any VFC-eligible child:

- 6 weeks through 59 months of age
- 5 through 18 years with certain underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of pneumococcal disease. See [VFC resolution, Table 1](#) for details.

Storage and handling: Detailed information can be found in the [Prevnar 20 FDA package insert](#). Prevnar 20 is supplied as a 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe. Store refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F), with syringes stored horizontally to minimize resuspension time. Do not freeze.

Dosage and Administration: Administer Prevnar 20, 0.5 mL dosage, via the intramuscular route only. The routine immunization series is 4-doses at 2, 4, 6, and 12 through 15 months of age.

VFC ORDERING

In addition to PCV15, PCV20 will be available to order through [MyVFCvaccines](#) starting September 1, 2023. Since PCV20 will be replacing PCV13, there is no need to submit a “[Provider Request Form to Update Vaccine Brand Products Administered](#)” unless you are switching from PCV15 to PCV20. If you are switching from a different vaccine brand keep 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 PCV20

CHDP Providers

Claims may be submitted for VFC-supplied doses of Prevnar 20 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 Prevnar 20, use the appropriate CPT-4 code, followed by the "-SL" modifier, of **90677-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.

Resources

- [ACIP Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#)
- [ACIP Pneumococcal Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [Prevnar 20 FDA Package insert](#)
- [VFA/VFC Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines Table](#)
- [VFC resolutions](#)