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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Maria Volk, M.P.A., Acting Chief *Maria E. Volk*
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Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Pentacel[®] Unavailable for Ordering

Pentacel[®] Unavailable for Ordering – Shortage Continuing

Although an increased supply of Sanofi Pasteur’s Pentacel[®] had been anticipated for April 2013, the California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program has just been notified that the Pentacel[®] shortage is now estimated to be resolved by early Fall 2013. VFC will not be able to fulfill any new Pentacel[®] orders at this time but will continue to keep VFC providers apprised of this shortage.

Vaccine Options

For providers currently using Pentacel[®], options during the shortage include:

- Pediarix[®] (DTaP-HepB-IPV) plus Hib-containing vaccine
- Comvax[®] (Hib-HepB) plus DTaP and IPV vaccines
- Individual DTaP, IPV, Hib, and hepatitis B vaccines

Combination Vaccines			
Vaccine Type	Brand Name	Indication	Schedule
DTaP-HepB-IPV	Pediarix [®]	6 weeks through 6 years <i>3 dose primary series only</i>	2, 4, and 6 months
Hib-HepB	Comvax [®]	6 weeks to 15 months	2, 4, and 12-15 months
DTaP-IPV	Kinrix [®]	4 through 6 years	4-6 years.
Currently Unavailable For Ordering			
DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel [®]	6 weeks through 4 years	2, 4, 6 and 15-18 mos.

Individual Vaccines			
Vaccine Type	Brand Name	Indication	Schedule
DTaP	DAPTACEL [®]	6 weeks through 6 years	2, 4, 6, 15-18 months, and 4-6 years
	Infanrix [®]		

IPV	IPOL [®]	6 weeks and older	2, 4, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years
Hepatitis B	Engerix B [®]	Children and adults	0, 1-2, and 6 months
	Recombivax [®]		
Hib	ActHIB [®]	2 through 18 months	2, 4, 6 and 12-15 months
	PedvaxHIB [®]	2 through 71 months	2, 4 and 12-15 months

Providers should review potential vaccine schedule options, including specific indications for each vaccine (population, ages, and schedules). Providers should NOT defer or delay immunizing patients at the recommended ages.

Providers switching to a combination vaccine should make sure to review their inventory and order appropriate numbers of individual vaccines, based on the new combination vaccine chosen. Vaccine orders should be placed when current inventory levels of Pentacel[®] and/or individual vaccines are appropriate for new orders.

Practices can refer to the sample schedules at <http://www.eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-922.pdf> for guidance in using of other combination vaccines, such as Pediarix[®] and Comvax[®]. Practices previously using Pentacel[®] may wish to refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) sample schedules](#) for completing the series with Pediarix[®] or individual vaccines after starting the Pentacel[®] series.

When implementing a new schedule in your practice, please review specific indications, minimum intervals, and licensed age ranges carefully. All staff should be thoroughly informed and educated on any changes to vaccines and schedules prior to implementation to avoid errors in administration.

We appreciate your flexibility, understanding, and your continued efforts to immunize our young children against serious vaccine preventable diseases. If you have any questions about this communication, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.