



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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Temporary Decrease in Pediarix[®] Vaccine Supply

Dear VFC Provider,

Due to the recent surge in demand for GSK's Pediarix[®] (DTaP-IPV-HepB) doses, availability of this product will be limited until new doses are produced and released this fall. CDC has implemented a monthly allocation for this vaccine across all states. Effective immediately, the California VFC Program is expected to receive a monthly allocation of Pediarix[®] equivalent to half the level of doses distributed on a monthly basis.

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

- **Order Limitations:** Current Pediarix[®] users will be restricted to maintaining a vaccine supply equivalent to no more than 50% of the clinic's average monthly Pediarix[®] usage. The number of doses to be approved will be dependent on the number of doses on hand at the point of ordering. Until this supply limitation is resolved, the CA VFC program will be unable to approve any Pediarix[®] vaccine request from providers without a prior order history for this product (within the past 12 months).
- **Strategic use of limited doses:** Pediarix[®] doses should be used for the 2-month dose. Please increase orders for individual vaccine components (DTaP, IPV and Hep B) to compensate for reduction of the combination vaccine. Providers will need to order individual vaccine components, DTaP, IPV and Hep B vaccines, to compensate for combination vaccine supply reductions and meet provider demand.
- **Staff Education:** Providers should review the specific age indications and recommended dosing schedule for all vaccines with staff to ensure familiarity with alternative products.

Childhood immunizations should NOT be deferred or delayed due to this vaccine's unavailability.

A VFC Program letter containing additional details on vaccine options will be e-mailed to VFC providers and is available at www.eziz.org. If you have any questions, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.

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Visit our website at www.eziz.org and register to receive electronic updates.