



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
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Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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Pentacel[®] Vaccine Supply Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Due to continued manufacturing delays for Pentacel[®] (Sanofi's DTaP-IPV/Hib combination vaccine), supply limitations for this vaccine has now been extended into early fall 2013. According to the manufacturer, new doses of Pentacel[®] will not be available for release to public and private providers markets during April and May of this year. Additionally, doses to be released after this 2-month period will continue to be limited, and subject to monthly allocations until this fall.

As a result of this situation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be unable to release any Pentacel[®] vaccine allocations to states, as supply of this product has been depleted at McKesson (VFC's national vaccine distributor).

Ordering for this product has been disabled on MYVFCVaccines, VFC's Online Vaccine Order system. Orders for this product will not be processed. The California VFC Program will notify providers once vaccine supply has returned to normal and ordering for this product has been restored.

Childhood immunizations should NOT be deferred or delayed due to this vaccine's unavailability. Supply of individual vaccine components (DTaP, IPV and Hib vaccines) as well as other combination vaccines is adequate to meet provider demand. If your clinic is affected by this situation, please keep the following in mind:

- Review the specific age indications and recommended dosing schedule for all vaccines with staff to ensure familiarity with alternative products. Different combination vaccines require different components.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends using the same brand of vaccine for all doses of a vaccination series, when feasible. However, if the brand of previously administered vaccines is unknown or not available, another brand may be used.
- Providers with sufficient single antigen vaccines on hand and considering transitioning to another combination vaccine must ensure current inventory levels for these components are used before ordering doses. This will prevent unnecessary vaccine waste.

[A VFC Program letter](#) containing additional details has been 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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