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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

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TO: Vaccine for Children (VFC) Providers IZB-FY-1213-08

FROM: John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Chief *Talarico, D.O.*
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Pentacel[®] Vaccine Supply Limits Continuing into 2013

Pentacel[®] Vaccine Supply Update:

Sanofi Pasteur now estimates that its decrease in the supply of Pentacel[®], described in the [April 6, 2012, California Vaccine for Children \(VFC\) Program letter](#), will extend through the first quarter of 2013. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to limit monthly allocations of Pentacel[®] for VFC.

Impact of Shortage

VFC continues to have adequate supplies of individual DTaP (including DAPTACEL[®]), IPV, and Hib vaccines to meet provider demand. There are also supplies of Pediarix (DTaP-Hep B-IPV) combination vaccine. Providers should NOT defer or delay immunizing patients at the recommended ages.

Providers using Pentacel[®]: The California VFC Program recommends using Pentacel[®] for the first three doses and individual DTaP, IPV, and Hib vaccines for the fourth dose. Please see the [April 6, 2012, California VFC Program letter](#) for a sample schedule and additional details.

Providers switching to Pediarix[®] should use up remaining supplies of Pentacel[®] and order more doses of Hib vaccine and fewer doses of hepatitis B vaccine to compensate for the switch.

In order to minimize the impact on provider practices, careful consideration should be given when selecting alternative products. Minimum intervals and licensed age ranges should be reviewed carefully. All staff should be thoroughly informed and educated on any changes to vaccines and schedules prior to implementation to avoid errors in administration.

VFC Orders

The California VFC Program will continue to limit Pentacel[®] orders to approximately 75% of historical average. Providers should continue to submit monthly Pentacel[®] requests and order adequate doses of other vaccines to compensate for the reduction in Pentacel[®].

The California VFC Program will continue to monitor supplies and inform providers of any updates or changes. If you have any questions about this communication, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.

cc: CDPH Immunization Branch Field Representatives
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