



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women's & Children's Health Section

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March 24, 2010

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: *Urgent:* Request to Order PCV13 and Return PCV7

The purpose of this memo is to guide providers in transitioning from 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV7, to the recently-licensed 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine, PCV13, and returning their remaining public (NCIP) supply of PCV7. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently advised providers to return their public supply of PCV7 to McKesson Specialty by **April 30, 2010**.

Before the end of April, providers should order a supply of PCV13 equivalent to the previous three-month's PCV7 usage, and once it arrives, discontinue the use of PCV7. Please request a return label for your inventory of PCV7 when ordering PCV13. Do not return unused doses of PCV7 to the Immunization Branch Materials Area as you would with all other wasted vaccine. PCV7 vaccine which is being returned does not need to be shipped as viable vaccine, that is, it does not require that the cold chain be maintained. Vaccine should be boxed and appropriately protected so that vaccine syringes do not break in shipment. DO NOT return any syringes with needles attached.

According to the CDC, providers should send only public purchased doses back to McKesson. Privately purchased doses must be returned to Pfizer.

Questions regarding ordering PCV13 and returning PCV7 may be addressed by contacting the Immunization Branch Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell
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Filename: PCV7 returning doses final

