



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

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October 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

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

SUBJECT: *Urgent Update:* Temporary Blackout for Varicella Vaccine Shipments **Postponed**

The purpose of this memo is to notify providers that an upcoming blackout period in shipping of varicella products has now been **postponed**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently notified us that because of changes in their vaccine ordering system, there would be a blackout period during which they would not be accepting orders for varicella and MMRV vaccines. (Per the CDC, we announced recently that we would not be accepting orders for these two vaccines between October 7 and October 28, 2010.) The CDC has just informed us that **this blackout period is being postponed. Please ignore the information regarding the blackout period that was recently announced, and continue to order your varicella and MMRV vaccines as you routinely do.**

Because the blackout is out of the control of the NCIP, we may receive additional information from the CDC, and will share updates with providers as soon as they become available. We appreciate your patience, and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Questions and concerns should be addressed by contacting the NCIP Help Desk, 1-877-873-6247.

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Vaccine Manufacturers