



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

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October 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program Participants

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Availability of *Haemophilus Influenzae Type B* (Hib) Vaccine Product

The purpose of this memo is to inform UCVDP providers of the introduction of a new single-antigen Hib vaccine, Hiberix®. This product is indicated for active immunization as a booster dose only for the prevention of invasive disease caused by *Haemophilus Influenzae type b* (Hib). Hiberix® is approved for use in children 15 months through 4 years of age, and may be used for a booster dose regardless of whether the primary series was completed with ActHIB® or PedvaxHIB®.

The introduction of Hiberix® will allow providers more opportunities to catch-up their patients in need of a Hib booster. Due to vaccine shortages, the Immunization Branch has not been able to fulfill orders for ActHIB vaccine over the last month. As soon as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) make Hiberix® available at McKesson Specialty, all orders received for ActHIB® that cannot be filled in full, will be supplemented with Hiberix®. Hiberix will also be available in the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) and will be added to your inventory if it is shipped to your office.

At this time, substitution is not necessary for practices receiving PedvaxHIB®, but Hiberix® substitution may become necessary in the future. Please remember that Hiberix® is only licensed for the Hib booster dose and should not be used for the primary Hib series. Supplies of Hib-containing vaccines remain in short supply and are still not sufficient to support a mass notification process to contact all children with deferred Hib booster doses. The CDC will continue to allocate doses of each Hib-containing product until supplies are sufficient to meet national demand.

For more information about Hiberix® and its use, please review the September 18th MMWR entitled *Licensure of a Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine (Hiberix) and Updated Recommendations for Use of Hib Vaccine* (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5836a5.htm>).

Thank you for your cooperation with this change. If you need additional information or assistance please contact your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant or the Immunization Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell
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Filename: Hiberix rollout draft

