



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

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March, 12, 2010

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

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

SUBJECT: *URGENT:* Switch to Pneumococcal Conjugate 13-Valent (PCV13) Vaccine

The purpose of this memo is to notify providers of the switch from pneumococcal conjugate 7-valent (PCV7) vaccine to the recently licensed pneumococcal conjugate 13-valent (PCV13) vaccine. PCV13 provides protection against thirteen strains of pneumococcal bacteria, including the seven strains in PCV7, and will replace PCV7 in all provider practices.

On Thursday, March 18, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will no longer ship PCV7, and will begin shipping PCV13. In order to reduce the amount of unused PCV7 in provider offices, NCIP will hold all PCV7 orders placed after 3 P.M. on Friday, March 12 and will ship them as PCV13 after March 18. PCV13 will be available in the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) beginning Friday March 19th. PCV13 will be supplied in 10-pack, single dose syringes. Note that PCV13 vaccine has been issued a new Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code, 90670.

PCV13 will be available from the NCIP for children who are Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible, and either:

- Aged 2 months through 59 months, or
- High risk children aged 60 through 71 months (that is, having underlying medical conditions that increase their risk of pneumococcal disease or complications)

Provisional recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are available on-line at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/pcv13-mar-2010-508.pdf> The Provisional Recommendations contain all of the information on administering PCV13, including after a child began the series with PCV7, and those needing a supplemental dose of PCV13 after completing their PCV7 series. The recommendations include two tables to help you decide what children need at various ages. Please print out the Provisional Recommendations and share them with all staff working in your immunization programs.

As soon as an updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for PCV13 is available, it may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>. In the meantime, please use the current VIS and supplement it with the manufacturer’s package insert or any other materials, written or verbal, that are appropriate.

Providers are advised to discontinue the use of PCV7 as soon as you receive PCV13, but do not dispose of or destroy the PCV7 you have in stock. It is anticipated that the CDC will provide guidance in the near future on handling the remaining stock of PCV7. NCIP staff will communicate this to providers when the guidance is available.

Questions or concerns should be addressed by contacting your regional immunization nurse (RIN), or by calling the Immunization Help Desk, at 1-877-873-6247.

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Vaccine Manufacturers

