



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section
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October 12, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

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

SUBJECT: *URGENT:* Availability of Combination Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (MMR-V) Vaccine, ProQuad®

The purpose of this memo is to announce the limited availability of the combination measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine, MMR-V, ProQuad®, to all NCIP providers. Effective immediately, MMR-V is being offered to providers for as long as supplies last, to administer to all children 12 months through 12 years of age, who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. These changes are reflected in the *NCIP Coverage Criteria (Effective July 1, 2010) Version 3*, at <http://www.immunizenc.com/coveragecriteria.htm>. In addition to outlining who may receive NCIP vaccines, the coverage criteria defines the VFC categories and lists the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes for all products offered through the NCIP, including MMR-V (90710).

On May 7, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated recommendations for the use of combination measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine. These recommendations may be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5903a1.htm?s_cid=rr5903a1_e

Manufactured by Merck, ProQuad® vaccine is supplied in 10-packs of single dose vials, including a separate package of 10 vials of sterile diluent. ProQuad® is a lyophilized vaccine to be reconstituted using **only** the accompanying sterile diluent. Merck ships this product **directly to providers with frozen gel packs** instead of dry ice for overnight delivery. Merck will enclose a letter in the shipment explaining how to determine viability of the vaccine: providers will need to refer to this letter in order to determine product viability. Note that unlike refrigerated vaccines shipped by McKesson Specialties, Inc., Merck’s shipments of frozen vaccines do not include vaccine temperature monitors. Merck limits each shipment of MMR-V to 80 doses per container, so orders of more than 80 doses will arrive in multiple packages.

At this time, Merck has a limited supply of ProQuad®. If and when supplies run out, we do not know when more will become available. Providers using the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) may order vaccine through the registry.

Questions about ProQuad® may be addressed to the Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

cc:	RICs	SMT	CO Staff	Vaccine Manufacturers	Steve Shore	
	RINs	Joy Reed	Greg Griggs	Jessica Gerdes	Timika Poston	Taryn Edwards