



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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 State Health Director

April 24, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

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

SUBJECT: *Urgent:* Immediate Allocation Reduction for Pentacel[®] Vaccine

The purpose of this memo is to alert providers of a recent notification from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the availability of the combination vaccine Pentacel[®], which contains DTaP, polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) antigens. Based on manufacturing issues, Pentacel[®] supplies are now limited and CDC will be providing a reduced monthly allocation to the North Carolina Immunization Program. According to CDC, this reduced allocation situation is anticipated to last throughout the summer of 2012.

Effective immediately, we are asking providers to do one of the following when ordering Pentacel[®] vaccine:

- 1) Order as you normally would (every 2-3 months and based on previous usage). NCIP will then reduce providers’ orders for Pentacel[®] by approximately 1/3, and the balance of your vaccine order will be supplied as the single-antigen vaccines, Daptacel[®], IPOL[®], and ActHIB[®].
- 2) Reduce your Pentacel[®] order and order an appropriate amount of single-antigen vaccines and/or Pediarix[®] (which contains DTaP, polio, and hepatitis B antigens) for your practice’s population.

Remember the CDC states that: “Only combination vaccines licensed by FDA should be used. Vaccination providers should not combine separate vaccines in the same syringe to administer together unless mixing is indicated for the patient’s age and is explicitly specified on the FDA-approved product label inserts.”

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6002.pdf>

As is the case with all state-supplied vaccines, providers are expected to administer the products appropriately, and not allow vaccine to expire. This will require providers who prefer combination vaccines to temporarily incorporate single-antigen products into their vaccination schedule. **Providers who allow single-antigen products to expire, regardless of whether or not they were actively ordered by your practice, are subject to the restitution policy, available here:**

<http://bit.ly/nciprestitution>

Note: Sanofi Pasteur is placing order restrictions on their private orders for both Pentacel[®] and DTaP vaccines. However, based on anticipated supply and the sufficient availability of another DTaP brand for providers, CDC is not planning allocations for government-purchased DTaP products at this time.

Questions or comments should be addressed to the NCIP Help Desk, 1-877-873-6247.

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