



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

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October 3, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

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

SUBJECT: Immediate Reduction of Pentacel® Supply

The purpose of this memo is to notify providers of the immediate reduction in the Pentacel supply available to our providers. According to recent notification from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pentacel® supplies will be reduced by 80%. This reduction is in addition to the reductions announced earlier in 2012. (For details, please reference previous memos on our web site at: <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/providers/memos.htm>.)

Providers will need to increase their orders of the components of Pentacel®, that is, DTaP, IPV, and Hib, in order to compensate for the reduction in Pentacel® supplies. At this time, CDC anticipates that the Pentacel® shortage will last through March 2013. Guidance for vaccinating children during this shortage is available via the CDC’s website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-guidance.pdf>.

Because of the shortage, providers should order Pentacel® bi-monthly as Pentacel® orders can only be processed every other month. Providers should carefully consider their needs and order the appropriate component vaccines. The CDC anticipates that there will be adequate supply of the component vaccine products during this time. Because of the availability of comparable single-antigen and combination vaccines, little to no impact to the routine childhood immunization schedule is anticipated.

NCIP understand the challenges that health care providers, patients, and parents face when there are limited supplies of vaccine, and apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these temporary order restrictions. Please contact the NCIP Help Desk, 1-877-873-6247 for guidance about ordering vaccines.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell
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