



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

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
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State Health Director

October 19, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BRW", is written over the name "Beth Rowe-West" in the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: Availability of Combination Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine (MMRV), ProQuad®

The purpose of this memo is to notify providers of the coming availability of ProQuad® vaccine. ProQuad® is a combination vaccine licensed for immunization for the prevention of measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella in children 12 months through 12 years of age. Per our October 12, 2010 memo, supplies were decreased for this vaccine. According to recent notification from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ProQuad® will be available again on or after November 5, 2012 for use in VFC-eligible children. Before ordering ProQuad®, providers should review the CDC’s recommendations on the *Use of Combination Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella Vaccine*, available on-line at: <http://bit.ly/mmrvreccs>.

Providers using the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) may begin ordering MMRV vaccine as soon as it is available on the New Order screen. Providers not using NCIR may begin submitting orders for MMRV on Monday, November 5. Providers should draw down their supplies of the component vaccines (MMR and varicella) as appropriate, so as not to have wasted vaccine. **Providers who let the component vaccines expire because of a preference for ProQuad® will be charged based on the restitution policy.**

As a reminder, ProQuad® is supplied in 10-packs of single dose vials, including a separate package of 10 vials of sterile diluent. ProQuad® is to be reconstituted using only the accompanying sterile diluent. Merck ships this product directly to providers with frozen gel packs 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 MMRV to 80 doses per container, so orders of more than 80 doses will arrive in multiple packages. Upon arrival at your practice, ProQuad® should be stored in the freezer at -15 degrees C or colder (-16, -17, etc., but no lower than -50 degrees C).

Please contact the NCIP Help Desk, 1-877-873-6247 for guidance on ordering vaccines.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell
Joy Reed NCIB Field Services Ann Nichols Vaccine Manufacturers Taryn Edwards