

# MEMO

**TO:** Prevention Partnership Providers and  
Local Public Health Units

**FROM:** Tatia Hardy  
Vaccines For Children Coordinator

**RE:** Reinstatement of the *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) Booster Dose

**DATE:** June 29, 2009

## Merck Hib Vaccine Recall

Since December of 2007, Merck production of Hib vaccine products has been suspended. To conserve the limited supply of Hib-containing vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that providers defer the routine Hib vaccine booster dose administered to most healthy children at age 12-15 months.

## Reinstatement of Hib Booster Dose

**Effective immediately, CDC is recommending reinstatement of the booster dose of Hib vaccine for children ages 12-15 months who have completed the primary 3-dose series.** Infants should continue to receive the primary Hib vaccine series at ages 2, 4, and 6 months. Children ages 12-15 months should receive the booster dose on time. **Older children for whom the booster dose was deferred should receive their Hib booster dose at the next routinely scheduled visit or medical encounter.** Currently, supply of Hib-containing vaccine is adequate to reinstate the booster dose and begin catch-up vaccination. **However, supply is not yet sufficient enough to support a mass notification process to contact all children with deferred Hib booster doses.**

## Use of Combination Vaccines

During the Hib shortage, many children received combination vaccines (Pentacel<sup>®</sup> or Pediarix<sup>®</sup>) for protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. Therefore, a mismatch may exist in provider offices between vaccination needs and available stock of different vaccine formulations (combination products versus single-antigen vaccines). Children who need the Hib booster and who already have received 4 doses of DTaP should receive monovalent Hib vaccine (ActHIB<sup>®</sup>) as the booster dose. However, if Pentacel<sup>®</sup> (DTaP/IPV-Hib) is the only Hib-containing vaccine available, this combination product can be used to complete the Hib series, even if the child has received all necessary doses of DTaP and IPV.

Prevention Partnership Providers  
Local Public Health Units  
June 29, 2009  
Page 2

**Because Merck Hib vaccine production is still suspended, CDC continues to provide the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) with an allocation of PedvaxHIB<sup>®</sup> for its Native American population. Providers may order state-supplied PedvaxHIB<sup>®</sup> for Native American children only.** Orders will be reviewed by NDDoH staff and compared to the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) doses administered data for Native American children. PedvaxHIB<sup>®</sup> is recommended to be administered at 2, 4, and 12-15 months of age.

**The NDDoH will continue to supply Pentacel<sup>®</sup> for routine administration at 2, 4, 6, and 15-18 months of age.** North Dakota providers should order enough Pentacel<sup>®</sup> from the NDDoH to routinely vaccinate all Vaccines For Children (VFC) eligible children at 2, 4, 6, and 15-18 months of age. As a general rule, providers should order the same amount of Pentacel<sup>®</sup> as pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prenar<sup>®</sup>), since both vaccines are four-dose series at similar ages.

**The NDDoH has only been allocated a limited supply of ActHIB<sup>®</sup>.** Providers should order limited supplies of ActHIB<sup>®</sup> to have on hand as older VFC-eligible children present for medical visits. **DO NOT order supplies of ActHIB<sup>®</sup> for mass catch-up vaccination.** Please keep this in mind when ordering vaccines for your practice.

For more information about the reinstatement of the booster Hib dose at ages 12-15 months, visit: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5824a5.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5824a5.htm).

As always, please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

cc: Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer  
Dr. Craig Lambrecht, Medical Director  
Kirby Kruger, Director  
Molly Sander, Immunization Program Manager  
Abbi Pierce, Immunization Surveillance Coordinator  
Keith LoMurray, NDIIS Sentinel Site Coordinator  
Kim Weis, AFIX Coordinator  
Teri Arso, Administrative Assistant