

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)  
Immunization Program**

**Vaccine Supply Update:**

**State-Supplied Pentacel Vaccine Now Available for All 4  
Doses in the Primary Series**

**December 21, 2016**

Sanofi Pasteur's **Pentacel** (DTaP-IPV/Hib) vaccine is **now available for all 4 doses in the primary series**. The MDPH is now able to supply enough Pentacel vaccine for providers to administer **4 doses** in the DTaP, IPV, and Hib series. Providers currently using Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-Hep B) who wish to continue to use this combination vaccine in the future should feel free to do so.

**Vaccine Ordering**

If provider sites intend to transition back to using Pentacel for all doses in the DTaP, IPV, and Hib series, they should ensure they use all remaining doses of Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-Hep B) before they expire. Practices should also adjust their inventories of ActHIB and hepatitis B vaccines accordingly. As a reminder, allowing vaccines to expire could result in vaccine restitution.

Now that the shortage is over, MDPH recommends that providers stock either Pentacel or Pediarix vaccines as a best practice to reduce the risk of medical errors. However, during the transition period, providers may order both formulations to minimize the number of injections children have to receive.

Providers that order Pentacel should order Daptacel to be consistent with the DTaP vaccine in their formulary. Providers that order Pediarix should order Infanrix to be consistent with the DTaP vaccine in their formulary.

**Vaccine Schedules**

- Now that the shortage is over, providers should choose whether to use Pentacel or Pediarix in their practice.
- Practices who decide to switch formulations should ensure all staff are aware of the change in policy and the transition plan.
- While the ACIP recommends the vaccination series be completed with the same brand when feasible, they state it is acceptable to complete it with any available formulation to avoid missed opportunities.

- A child who began the series with Pentacel (DTaP-IPV/Hib), and then received single-component products and/or Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-HepB), may receive Pentacel and the appropriate single antigen vaccine to complete the series.
- Consider Kinrix (DTaP-IPV) which is a combination vaccine approved for the 5th dose of DTaP and 4<sup>th</sup> dose of IPV vaccines in children 4 through 6 years of age. Providers wishing to decrease the number of injections may choose to administer GSK's Kinrix in children who received other vaccines for their earlier doses in the series.
- Providers wishing to use Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-HepB) for doses 1, 2 and 3 of the DTaP series and any dose of the HepB series (except the birth dose) should feel free to do so.

Thank you again for your continued understanding and flexibility in adhering to the recommendations and for your efforts to protect our children against vaccine preventable diseases.

### **Questions**

For questions about **vaccine availability and ordering**, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.

For questions about **immunization schedules**, please call the Immunization Program at 617-983-6800 and ask to speak to an immunization epidemiologist or immunization nurse.