

Philadelphia Immunization Program

SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH, Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity / Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH, Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD, Director, Division of Disease Control



April 27, 2012:

Pentacel Vaccine in Limited Supply

Due to a manufacturing delay, sanofi pasteur is temporarily implementing order limitations for Pentacel (DTaP-IPV/Hib) vaccine. During this delay, all Pentacel® orders will be limited to approximately 60-70% of historical average usage. Therefore, we suggest looking at your practice's monthly usage, and apply this reduction to determine future Pentacel® dose orders. This reduction is effective immediately and will continue until further notice.

The impact of this shortage is likely to be minimal on the routine childhood immunization schedule. VFC Program supplies for individual DTaP, IPV and Hib vaccines are sufficient to meet provider demand for now. Vaccination of your patients should NOT be deferred or delayed because of the current Pentacel limitation.

VFC providers can provide DTaP, IPV, and Hib vaccine to VFC patients through the following options:

- Providers may order DTaP, IPV, and Hib as single antigen vaccines from VFC to replace the dose reduction in Pentacel® orders.
- If your site currently uses Pentacel® and would like to continue vaccinating all VFC children with a combination vaccine, Pediarix (DTaP-IPV-HepB) vaccine (GSK) is available in full supply.
- If you choose to order Pediarix to either supplement or replace your Pentacel® supply, please order a Hib-containing vaccine to satisfy the Hib requirement. ActHIB® (sanofi pasteur) is a 4-dose Hib vaccine currently available in full supply for both private and VFC patients. PedvaxHIB® (Merck) is a 3-dose Hib vaccine that can also be used with Pediarix and is available in full supply for both private and VFC patients.
- Hiberix® from GSK is a Hib-containing vaccine that can only be used as a **booster dose**. NOTE: If you have Hiberix in your current VFC inventory, you can use Hiberix to satisfy the need for Hib-containing vaccine for the booster dose. However, additional Hiberix vaccine cannot be ordered at this time, as it is currently unavailable from GSK via VFC.

Providers should review the specific age indications and recommended dosing schedule for all vaccines, especially how the Hib and HepB schedules are incorporated with Pediarix® and Pentacel® vaccines. After your practice determines which schedule and vaccines will be used to accommodate the Pentacel® shortage, ALL staff should be informed and educated on the replacement vaccines and schedules.

Updated VFC order forms can be found at <https://kids.phila.gov>.