



February 8, 2008

Re: Hib Vaccine Shortage and the associated IEHP Well Child Visit Bonus

Dear IEHP Provider:

We would like to provide you with an update regarding the availability of Hib vaccine due to the recall of Merck's PedVax Hib and Comvax vaccines. The supply of PedVax Hib and Comvax vaccines will continue to be interrupted by this recall until the second half of 2008. Sanofi Pasteur's ActHib vaccine will remain as the only licensed Hib product. CDC has issued an interim recommendation for the administration of Hib-containing vaccines. **In this recommendation, CDC/ACIP is asking all doctors to stop giving healthy children the booster dose of Hib vaccine at 12-15 months of age until the shortage is over (except to children in specific groups at high risk).** The published guidelines may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm>T.

IEHP has contacted the county VFC offices regarding Hib vaccine supplies. According to VFC, all Hib vaccine requests will be processed according to the following procedures:

- Any pending Hib order will be approved based on historical vaccine usage and will be reduced to coincide with interim recommendations.
- All PedVax Hib requests will be automatically filled with ActHIB, unless clinic is a Tribal/Indian Health Service clinic.
- When calculating the new Hib vaccine requests, please take into account the temporary deferral of the routine Hib vaccine booster, administered at 12-15 months.
- Please do not over-estimate Hib vaccine doses to be requested, and only order what you will need during your ordering period.
- Comvax is temporarily not available through VFC. All pending Comvax requests will be substituted with ActHIB and Merck's Hep B vaccine.

Physicians should use ActHIB in lieu of PedvaxHIB and defer the booster dose at 15-18 months during this shortage. The following is the recommended immunization schedule for ActHIB and PedvaxHIB:



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

Vaccine	Ingredient	Schedule	Comment
ActHIB	<i>Haemophilus b</i> , diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis	4 doses: at 2, 4, 6, and booster at 15-18 months	Now is available thru VFC. 4 dose schedule compared to 3 for PedvaxHIB or Comvax. Defer the booster dose now during shortage.
PedvaxHIB	<i>Haemophilus b</i> , <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	3 doses: 2 doses, 2 months apart between 2 –10 months, booster at 12-15 months	Now unavailable.

In response to the CDC recommendation, IEHP is temporarily modifying the criteria for the 12-month Well Child Visit bonus to exclude the 12-month Hib booster. IEHP will pay the bonus incentive with the submission of a Well Child Visit only between the ages of 11.5 – 13.5 months. Once normal supply of Hib vaccine resume, IEHP will notify you that the standard 12-Month WCV bonus criterion has been restored.

If you have questions regarding VFC vaccine supply, you may call 1-877-243-8832. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please call Chris Chan, Pharm.D. at (909) 890-2067.

Sincerely,

William Henning, D.O.
Chief Medical Officer

Chris Chan, Pharm.D.
Director of Pharmaceutical Services