



Memorandum

TO: Regional Directors, Health Service Regions
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
Health Department Directors, Local Health Departments
Immunization Program Managers, Local Health Departments
TVFC Providers

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager Vaccine Services Group *KSH*

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager Immunization Branch *Jack C. Sims*

DATE: April 30, 2012

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program: Pentacel[®] Supply Limited

The Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program was notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about a temporary shortage of Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel[®] vaccine [Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Adsorbed, Inactivated Poliovirus and Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine]. The shortage will result in immediate vaccine allocations for this product to all VFC programs nationwide. Allocations of Pentacel[®] are necessary due to a manufacturing delay that will temporarily reduce supply below the level needed to fully satisfy market demand. The shortage is anticipated to last throughout the summer.

In order to ensure that all providers have access to this vaccine over the next few months, TVFC provider Maximum Stock Levels (MSLs) for Pentacel[®] will be reduced by one third (1/3) effective immediately. This reduction will happen automatically in the Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) system. Until further notice, providers will not be allowed to order over their newly defined Pentacel[®] MSL.

Options to reduce the use of Pentacel[®] include use of single vaccines for some populations, and use of alternative combination vaccines, such as Pediarix[®] (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, and polio) for others. Providers may consider using Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP), and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccines separately, especially for the 12-15 month booster doses; and starting new patients on the Pediarix[®] combination vaccine. If you would like additional information on vaccine options by age, please

go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/tvfc/default.shtm and look for *Vaccine Options by Age* under Provider Resources. If single antigens or other combinations are not showing as ordering options, or if providers need to change current vaccine selections, the opportunity to alter vaccine choices in EVI will begin on May 15, 2012.

Sano fi Pasteur is also experiencing a delay with their DTaP vaccine. However, there are other manufacturers of this vaccine, and because of that, a shortage of DTaP is not expected.

If you have questions regarding Pentacel[®] or vaccine MSLs, please contact your local health department, health service region, or TVFC consultant.