

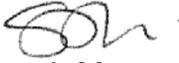


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TO: Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Providers

FROM: Saroj Rai, Ph.D. 
Immunization Branch Manager

DATE: April 22, 2013

SUBJECT: Pediarix[®] Vaccine Supply Update

The Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program was notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about a temporary shortage of GlaxoSmithKline's (GSKs) vaccine, Pediarix[®] [Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Adsorbed, Hepatitis B (Recombinant) and Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine]. The shortage will result in immediate vaccine allocations for this product to all VFC programs nationwide. Allocations are necessary due to increased demand for Pediarix[®] because of the shortage of another combination vaccine. GSK will continue its efforts to increase production of Pediarix[®] to help meet market demand, but 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, effective immediately, TVFC provider Maximum Stock Levels (MSLs) for Pediarix[®] will be reduced to forty percent (40%) of the current MSL. 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 Pediarix[®] MSL.

Options to reduce the use of Pediarix[®] include use of single vaccines for some populations, and use of alternative combination vaccines for others. GSK reports having sufficient supply of Infanrix[®] (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Adsorbed) to cover the potential shortage of Pediarix[®] that may result from the allocation efforts.

If single antigens or other combinations are not showing as ordering options in the EVI system, please contact the Vaccine Call Center at 1-888-777-5320 for assistance.

If you have questions regarding Pediarix[®] supply or vaccine MSLs, please contact your Department of State Health Service (DSHS) Health Service Region or TVFC Regional Consultant.