



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

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May 8, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) Providers

**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head   
Immunization Branch

**SUBJECT:** Updates on the Status of Hepatitis B Vaccine Supplies

The purpose of this memo is to update providers regarding the most recent communications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the supply of monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccines. According to the CDC, despite supply constraints, *current analysis indicates that during the remainder of 2009, sufficient pediatric hepatitis B vaccine will be available to meet demand, if providers continue to order vaccine judiciously.*

CDC has worked closely with the two US manufacturers of pediatric hepatitis B vaccines [Merck and Co., Inc., and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)] to understand their projections for how much vaccine will be available for the remainder of 2009. Merck, manufacturer of Recombivax HB®, expects vaccine to be limited for the remainder of 2009. GSK, manufacturer of Engerix-B® and Pediarix®, is planning to bring additional monovalent vaccine into the US in the fall to meet US demand for pediatric hepatitis B product. Vaccine supply is anticipated to be tightest during the summer months. Once supplies of Merck vaccine are exhausted, UCVDP providers will be offered GSK product only.

CDC continues to monitor the situation, and at this time is not recommending any changes in the pediatric hepatitis B vaccine schedule. **Providers should continue to administer pediatric hepatitis B vaccine according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) schedule.**

The continued judicious ordering of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine during the remainder of 2009 will help manage the tight supply anticipated in the summer months, and assure that providers can continue to protect all children by following the 3-dose schedule. For complete messages from the CDC regarding vaccine supply, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm>

CDC is allocating all hepatitis B products beginning May 1, 2009. In order to avoid the backordering and cancelling orders at McKesson Specialty, it will be necessary to delay hepatitis B orders approximately one week, as is the current practice for all Hib products. Although we do not anticipate the need to reduce orders at this time, it is possible that we may need to reduce orders slightly. If that becomes necessary, we will be unable to notify individual providers prior to shipment.

For questions about the use of hepatitis B vaccines, contact your Regional Immunization Nurse Consultant. Questions regarding vaccine ordering should be addressed to the Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell  
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