



Oklahoma State
Department of Health

Oklahoma Immunization Update January 2008

DISEASE and PREVENTION SERVICES
IMMUNIZATION SERVICE

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Disruption in Hib Vaccine Supply

On December 17, 2007 Merck and Co. Inc. voluntarily recalled certain lots of PedvaxHIB® and Comvax® and suspended production of these two vaccines until at least October 2008. This recall and suspension has caused a short supply of Hib vaccine and will require changes in Hib vaccination practices for most Oklahoma Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers. A majority of providers whose previous VFC preference was either PedvaxHIB or Comvax will need to use Sanofi's ActHIB® to complete the primary Hib series. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that available supplies of ActHIB will be insufficient to meet national needs. The CDC will be providing state-level allocations for publicly purchased Hib vaccine on a monthly basis.

Hib Vaccine Shipments Delayed

Temporary delays in provider shipments for January's VFC Hib orders are being experienced due to complications at the federal level. Oklahoma provider orders are expected to be filled as submitted. However, shipments may not be received until the first week of February or later. If your practice is experiencing an outage or severe shortage of Hib vaccine, you are encouraged to keep a list of children not receiving the primary Hib series. These children should be recalled as soon as your supply is replenished.

TriHIBit® Booster Dose

Providers who currently have supplies of TriHIBit (DTaP/Hib) vaccine, used for the booster dose, should continue to use this vaccine until supplies are exhausted. TriHIBit should be targeted to ACIP identified high-risk groups and other children depending on the supply available at the practice and the vaccine expiration date.

ACIP Interim Guidance

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued interim guidelines on Hib vaccination during the shortage that includes deferring administration of the booster dose administered at age 12-15 months, except for children with the following conditions, or children in the specified high-risk groups:

- Asplenia
- Sickle cell disease
- Human immunodeficiency virus infection
- Certain other immunodeficiency syndromes and malignant neoplasms
- American Indian and Alaskan Native children

Hib Schedule

The number of doses in the primary Hib vaccine series, beginning at 2 months of age, depends on the type of vaccine used.

A primary series of **PedvaxHIB** or **Comvax** is **two doses** at 2 months and 4 months. A primary series of **ActHIB** is **three doses** at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months of age. The booster dose for any of the above products is due at 12-15 months of age. Any licensed Hib vaccine may be used for the booster dose.

A primary series of Hib vaccine of **unknown type** is **three doses** at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months of age. If you do not know what type of Hib vaccine the child received at 2 or 4 months of age, the child **needs** a dose of Hib vaccine at 6 months of age. This dose may be either ActHIB, PedvaxHIB or Comvax.

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If you have any questions about this material please contact the

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