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Date: April 24, 2013

To: Iowa Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

From: Iowa VFC Program

RE: Limited Availability of VFC Pediarix Vaccine (DTaP-Hep B-IPV)

Background

The Iowa Immunization Program has been notified of a supply delay related to GlaxoSmithKline's Pediarix (DTaP-Hep B-IPV) vaccine. As a result of the ongoing Pentacel vaccine shortage that began in April 2012, GSK has experienced increased demand for Pediarix vaccine. GSK has taken steps to accommodate the increased demand for Pediarix vaccine, but is unable to sustain production to meet the marketplace demand.

Impact to Iowa VFC providers

This delay will cause the Iowa Vaccines for Children Program to receive CDC determined monthly allocations of Pediarix. The allocation is approximately 50% of what is normally distributed each month to satisfy Iowa VFC health care provider demand. The limited supply and vaccine allocations are anticipated to last throughout the summer.

When placing vaccine orders for Pediarix, please order accordingly to accommodate the reduced allocation quantity and consider alternatives to Pediarix. Vaccine orders for Pediarix may be reduced to allow all providers to receive a portion of the Program's vaccine allocation. As necessary, the VFC Program will contact providers regarding vaccine orders to discuss the availability of Pediarix and use of alternative single antigen and combination vaccines.

Ample single alternative vaccines are available and must be used to avoid missed opportunities to vaccinate. No child should go unvaccinated due to the limited availability of combination DTaP vaccines. Providers should not borrow vaccine from their private stock to vaccinate VFC eligible children.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends vaccines in a series be from the same manufacturer (i.e., Pediarix or Infanrix). However; if this is not possible or if the manufacturer of previously administered vaccines is unknown, providers should administer the vaccine they have available.

The Immunization Program appreciates your understanding and assistance with this matter. If you have questions regarding vaccine orders contact the VFC Program at 1-800-831-6293 ext. 5.