



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Health Services
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Tips for Placing Orders for Sanofi's New Combination Vaccine, Pentacel®

Dear VFC Provider,

Sanofi's new combination vaccine, Pentacel® (DTaP+IPV+Hib), is now available for ordering through the California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. You may download a copy of our recent mailing at www.vfcca.org. When placing a request for this product, please keep in mind the following:

Vaccine Information

- ◆ Eligible groups for the receipt of VFC supplied Pentacel™ VFC-eligible infants and young children aged 6 weeks through 4 years.

Pentacel® is recommended to be given as a four-dose series (2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months). However, due to the current Hib supply shortage, the 4th dose of Pentacel® (or single antigen Hib) should be deferred.

- ◆ The vaccine is provided in a 5-dose package containing 5 vials of the DTaP-IPV component (blue cap liquid vial) AND 5 single dose vials of the ActHIB™ component (green cap vial). Both components mixed together form the Pentacel™ vaccine. Please **DO NOT** reconstitute the ActHIB component with any other sterile liquid or DTaP-IPV vaccine combination other than the one supplied in the Pentacel™ package.

Pentacel® Orders

- ◆ Requests for this product should be included in your routine vaccine order. Orders should be placed following the specified order frequency for your practice. Pentacel®-only orders cannot be approved for providers who are placing an initial request for this product, as usage and inventory of multiple vaccines will be taken into consideration when approving requests.
- ◆ Supplemental Pentacel® orders will be approved for providers that have already received an initial supply.
- ◆ If your practice is transitioning to using Pentacel®, we encourage you to place an **initial** request based on immunizing patients coming in for their primary series (2 month visit) and gradually increase your request in your next order. Please reduce any excess of single antigen or combination vaccine supplies **prior** to placing an order for this vaccine. VFC may adjust over-orders or orders with excess inventory still on-hand.
- ◆ As a general recommendation, we suggest you base your **initial** Pentacel® order on your clinic's usage of DTaP (or Pediarix if transitioning from this to Pentacel®) and taking into consideration the number of DTaP, IPV, and Hib (or Pediarix) dose still in your refrigerator. If your clinic will be immunizing 2-month olds initially, then order only a portion (no more than 50%) of your DTaP (or Pediarix) usage as Pentacel®.

For any questions, please call (877) 243-8832 or visit our website at www.vfc-ca.org.