

Resumption of Hib Booster Vaccination: Q & A for Providers:

1. Is there any guidance about completing the HepB vaccine series in settings where Pentacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib) is being used for the Hib series?
 - A. Providers who are using Pentacel for the Hib series should use monovalent HepB vaccine to complete the HepB vaccine series. This will minimize extra-immunization. Providers will need to plan ahead to ensure they have adequate supplies of HepB vaccine on hand. For more guidance about completing the HepB vaccine series, considering the mother's hepatitis B surface antigen status (HBsAg) and vaccine availability, please refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/eo-hib-hepb-cov.pdf>.

2. What are the different Hib vaccine products currently available and for which ages are they recommended for use?
 - A. Hib vaccines products that are available include sanofi's monovalent Hib vaccine (ActHib) and the combination product DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel). These two products are recommended to be administered at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 12-15 months.

Note that for providers who serve predominantly American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children living in AI/AN communities, the Merck monovalent Hib vaccine, PedvaxHib, has been available through the states' immunization programs from the VFC Pediatric Vaccine Stockpile. These providers should continue to stock and use PRP-OMP – containing Hib vaccines (PedvaxHib and Comvax) and vaccinate according to the routinely recommended schedule.

3. Can the Hib “booster” dose refer to either the third or the fourth dose of Hib-containing vaccine?
 - A. Yes. For a given child, if a provider has used a sanofi product (either monovalent ActHib or combination vaccine Pentacel) for any of the doses in the series at the recommended ages, a total of 4 doses is needed (3 primary doses in the first year of life and 1 booster dose in the second year of life) However, the provider has restricted use to Merck's monovalent Hib product (PedvaxHib) or the combination product HepB-Hib (Comvax) for age appropriate doses, the total number of doses in this series is three (2 primary doses and 1 booster dose). If a child has fallen behind in the series of Hib vaccine, fewer doses are required to complete the series regardless of the previous brand used. See Table 1 regarding catch up at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5751a5.htm?s_cid=mm5751a5_e

4. What is the current Hib vaccination recommendation for children at increased risk for Hib disease, and has this recommendation changed?
 - A. There has been no change in the recommendation for children at increased risk for Hib disease. Throughout the shortage, during which deferral of the booster dose was recommended for most children, those children at increased risk for Hib disease have specifically been recommended to continue to receive the complete series of Hib vaccine (including the primary series and booster). Children at increased risk for Hib disease include those with asplenia, sickle cell disease, and human immunodeficiency virus infection and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes and malignant neoplasms. In addition, some groups at particular risk of invasive Hib disease (i.e., American Indians/Alaska Natives) have been recommended to receive remaining doses of Merck's Hib vaccine, which is available from the VFC Pediatric Vaccine Stockpile. This recommendation has not changed.

5. Is it anticipated that supplies of Hib-containing vaccine will be sufficient in the near future to allow for active recall of children for whom the booster dose was deferred?
 - A. The CDC does not recommend active recall for children for whom the booster dose was deferred until supplies of Hib vaccine improve. The CDC recommends children for whom the booster dose was deferred who are older than age 15 months receive the booster dose when they are next seen in the office for a routinely scheduled or sick visit. If additional Hib-containing vaccine becomes available to support active recall, the CDC will communicate this information broadly with partners and providers.

6. If a Hib-containing combination vaccine is the only product available to a practice to bring a child up-to-date for Hib vaccination, but the child is already up-to-date for the other vaccines in the combination, is it safe to administer the combination vaccine?
 - A. Providers should plan ahead so adequate supplies of the appropriate products are available at the time of the child's visit and that extra-immunization is minimized. However, if Pentacel (that is, the sanofi combination product DTaP-IPV/Hib) is the only Hib-containing vaccine available, this product should be used to complete the Hib vaccination series, even if the child has already received all the necessary doses of DTaP and IPV. Studies suggest that extra DTaP can lead to an increase in local reactions (e.g., sore arm).