



Memorandum

TO: Regional Directors, Health Service Regions
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
Health Department Directors, Local Health Departments
Immunization Program Managers, Local Health Departments

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager *KH 12/20/07*
Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager *JCS 12-20-07*
Immunization Branch

DATE: December 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program:
Interim Recommendations for the Use of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b (Hib)
Conjugate Vaccines, and Hib Returns Process

On December 13, 2007, the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program released a memo announcing that Merck & Co., Inc. has initiated a voluntary recall of certain lots of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Bib) conjugate vaccines. Because of the expected short-term reduction in available doses of Bib-containing vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, is recommending that providers temporarily defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster dose administered at age 12- 15 months except to children in specific high risk groups.

Effective immediately TVFC providers should begin deferring the booster dose to non-high risk children as recommended, and tracking those children for recall when supplies improve. Providers should order only the number of doses of vaccine required to meet immediate needs (consistent with established max stock levels).

Children at increased risk for Hib disease include those with asplenia, sickle cell disease, human immunodeficiency virus infection and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes, and malignant neoplasms. CDC recommends that providers continue to vaccinate these children with available Hib conjugate vaccines according to the routinely recommended schedules, including the 12-15 month booster dose.

A complete copy of the Interim Recommendations for the Use of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b (Hib) Conjugate Vaccines Related to the Recall of Certain Lots of Hib-Containing Vaccines (PedvaxHIB®) and Comvax™) can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmv.T/>.

1118 RETURNS PROCESS

The CDC has provided the Immunization Branch with appropriate procedures for returning recalled Bib products. TVFC providers that have been sent recalled Hib products have been identified and should receive an information packet from Stericycle, the company that will be collecting the recalled vaccines. The packet will include detailed instructions on how to send the vaccines to Stericycle. Please do not send the vaccines back to McKesson. Follow the part of the instructions as if you had purchased the vaccines directly from Merck. Providers should complete and return the enclosed Business Reply Card, complete the packing slip, pack the vaccine in any shipping container along with the packing slip, and use the enclosed pre-paid UPS shipping label to return the product to Stericycle. The package will also include Stericycle's toll free phone number to call if you have any questions about the process.

If you have additional questions, please contact your IISR, LHD or Texas Vaccines for Children consultant.