To: Maine Immunization Providers

From: Maine Immunization Program

Subject: ProQuad Vaccine

Date: October 12, 2012

It is anticipated that the quadrivalent measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine (ProQuad) will become available in November 2012. For future orders, you may include ProQuad.

Key points regarding the MMRV vaccine:

* ProQuad (MMRV) must be stored frozen between (–58ºF and +5ºF) (–50ºC to –15ºC) to maintain potency.

To ensure that proper storage requirements are met, please complete and submit the attached form with your order. If you already receive varicella from our program, you do not need to resubmit this form.

* Although MMRV vaccine results in one fewer injection, when used as a first dose at ages 12-23 months, studies have shown that the MMRV vaccine is associated with higher risks of fever within the 42 days after vaccination (with highest risk of febrile seizures during 5-12 days after vaccination).
* Unless the parent of caregiver expresses a preference for MMRV vaccine, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that the MMR vaccine and varicella vaccine be administered as separate injections for the first dose in children 12-47 months of age. (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/combo-vaccines/mmrv/vacopt-factsheet-hcp.pdf>)
* The web links below include a summary of the risks and benefits to use as guidance when discussing options with parents on whether to use MMR and varicella or the MMRV vaccine.

Health Care Providers – Discussing the Options with Parents

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/combo-vaccines/mmrv/vacopt-factsheet-hcp.pdf>

Parent Fact Sheet – Know the facts before you choose

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/combo-vaccines/mmrv/vacopt-factsheet-parent.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program Health Educators at:

Phone (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775, Email: [ImmunizeME.DHHS@Maine.gov](mailto:ImmunizeME.DHHS@Maine.gov)

Sincerely,



Tonya Philbrick, BS, NCMA

Director, Maine Immunization Program