Maine Immunization Program

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To: Maine Immunization Providers

From: Maine Immunization Program

Subject: Pentacel Shortage Update

Date: March 28, 2013

The Maine Immunization Program (MIP) would like to provide you with additional information regarding the current Pentacel® (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Absorbed, Inactivated Poliovirus and Haemophilus b Conjugate [Tetanus Toxoid Conjugate] Vaccine). According to (a) recent notification, Sanofi Pasteur is experiencing a delay in the process to gain release of the doses previously expected to become available in April 2013. As a result, new doses of Pentacel vaccine are not expected to become available until June 2013. After additional doses of Pentacel vaccine are released, order allocations will be reinstated and are expected to remain in effect until early September 2013.

MIP Providers should continue to place orders for the individual components of Pentacel, DTaP, IPV and Hib, in order to compensate for the reduction in Pentacel allocation. Providers should carefully consider their needs and order appropriately. At this time, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates that there will be adequate supply of the component vaccine products throughout this continued shortage. Guidance for vaccinating children during this shortage is available via the CDC’s website:

 <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-guidance.pdf>

MIP understands the challenges that health care providers, patients and parents face when there are limited supplies of vaccine and apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these temporary order restrictions. Thank you for your dedication to keep the citizens of Maine free from vaccine-preventable diseases.

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

Sincerely,



Tonya Philbrick, BS, NCMA

Director, Maine Immunization Program