



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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DATE: May 5, 2009
TO: Childhood Vaccine Providers
FROM: Marcella Bobinsky, Program Manager
New Hampshire Immunization Program (NHIP)
DHHS Division of Public Health Services
RE: **Availability of monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccines**

The following information was released to the NH Immunization Program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Monday afternoon, May 4, 2009.

Since February, there have been intermittent monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine supply constraints in the United States. **At this time, providers should continue to administer pediatric hepatitis B vaccine according to the ACIP/AAP/AAFP 2009 Immunization Schedule.** Despite supply constraints, CDC analysis indicates that sufficient pediatric hepatitis B vaccine will be available to meet demand if providers continue to order vaccine judiciously for the remainder of 2009.

CDC anticipates that the monovalent hepatitis B vaccine supply will be tight during the summer months. Supply is expected to improve in the fall. In the meantime, our ability to maintain the 3 doses hepatitis B vaccine series depends on immunization providers continuing to practice sensible ordering patterns.

The New Hampshire Immunization Program (NHIP) understands that providers have been instructed to choose between the two monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine products, Engerix and Recombivax. However, at least for the summer months, we will send you the hepatitis B vaccine product that is currently available at the time you place your order. Within the limits of our monthly allocation, the NHIP will work with you to maintain an adequate supply for you and your patients.

Additional information will be available soon from CDC that will answer many of your questions. We will send it along as soon as we have it.

As always, if you need additional information, please call NHIP at 271-4482.