

Jan 3, 2008

Interim Guidelines for Use of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b Conjugate Vaccines

Due to the current reduction in available doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccines, CDC, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, issued interim guidelines for use of Hib vaccines on December 19, 2007. **The interim guidelines call for the temporary deferral of the routine booster dose of Hib vaccine for all children except those children who are at increased risk for Hib disease.** This booster dose is normally given at 12 months through 15 months of age to children who have completed the appropriate primary immunization series for this vaccine. (All children through 59 months of age who have not received the primary series should complete the recommended number of doses given for the age at which they are presenting for vaccination.)

Children at increased risk for Hib disease and who therefore should receive the standard number of doses of Hib vaccines, including the booster dose, are children with any of the following conditions: asplenia, sickle cell disease, human immunodeficiency virus infection and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes, and malignant neoplasms. In addition, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children have a significantly increased risk for Hib disease, especially in the first 6 months of life, and therefore should not have any doses deferred. Although not applicable to most LA county healthcare providers, CDC recommends that PedvaxHib (not from the recalled lots) be used whenever possible to immunize the AI/AN population living in AI/AN communities based on data that indicates a more rapid seroconversion to protective antibody concentrations within the first 6 months of life.

Health care providers are strongly encouraged to keep track of all children for whom the booster dose was deferred in order to facilitate the recalling of these children when the supply of this vaccine improves. (Please note that the Interim Guidelines were published by CDC in the MMWR Dispatch, vol.56/December 19, 2007 and are available at the web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5650a4.htm>.)