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**FROM:**

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**Synflorix™ to replace Prevnar®**

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine Synflorix™ has replaced Prevnar® in Ontario's publicly funded immunization schedule for the routine immunization of children up to 24 months of age. Synflorix™ provides additional protection against *S. pneumoniae* serotypes 1, 5, and 7F, which is beneficial in light of the re-emergence of serotype 5 in Western Canada and concern of serotype replacement. Vaccine components are also conjugated to non-typeable Haemophilus influenza.

As a result of the new schedule and a current shortage of Prevnar®, the Prevnar® product is only available to **children 24 to 59 months of age and who:**

- are unimmunized
- have not completed their series

According to MOHLTC guidelines, **children who are 6 weeks to 23 months of age** should receive Synflorix™ regardless of their immunization history (ie., even if they have started their primary series with Prevnar®). Synflorix™ can be administered concomitantly with other routine childhood vaccines.

Adverse reactions to Synflorix™ are similar to those associated with Prevnar® and include redness at the injection site and irritability.<sup>1</sup>

**NeisVac-C® Vaccine to replace Menjugate®**

Ontario Government Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS) will be distributing NeisVac-C® vaccine will be replacing Menjugate® for routine infant immunizations. Menjugate® vaccine orders received will now be filled with NeisVac-C®. Physicians can continue to use current Menjugate® stock.

Menjugate® and NeisVac-C® both protect against group C Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) and can be given to children one year or older as per the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario, January 2009*.

**Quadracel® Expiry Extensions**

As a result of a review of stability data for Quadracel® (DTaP-IPV) by the product manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur, three specific lots may be used for an additional 6 month period beyond the printed expiry date, provided vaccines have been continuously stored between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.

- Lots **C2989AB** and **C2989AD**, with current expiry dates of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, **may be used until August 31, 2010.**
- Lot **C3039AB** with a current expiry date of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 **may be used until November 30, 2010.**

This extension of expiry does not apply to other lots.

<sup>1</sup> Redness at injected site (38.3%) and irritability (52.3%) were reported in the clinical trial of adverse drug reactions; as cited in Synflorix™ Product Monograph, GSK, 2009.