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### **Prevnar® conversion to pre-filled syringes**

- Wyeth Pharmaceuticals is now supplying the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, Prevnar®, in a new format
- The vaccine will now be supplied in pre-filled syringes, packaged in 10 doses (syringes) per box.
- You may order the pre-filled syringes once you have used the rest of your current supply of five single dose Prevnar® packages.
- Single vial format will no longer be available for Ontario's publicly funded immunization program.

**\* Please do not return any remaining five single dose Prevnar® packages because of a preference for the syringe format \***

### **Contents of the new Prevnar 10 dose pre-filled syringe package**

- Each Prevnar® pre-filled syringe contains the same vaccine, in the same dosage, as the former Prevnar single dose vial
- The pre-filled syringe is designed to allow you to choose a preferred size and gauge of luer lock needle based on patient needs.
- The new ten syringe packaging is larger than the former five vial packaging, so please adjust your fridge inventory accordingly. Ordering excess vaccine can increase the risk of wastage.

### **Needles are not included with the new Prevnar® pre-filled syringe package**

- Needles are **not** included with the new Prevnar® pre-filled syringe package

- You will need to order needles from your medical supplier
- Prevnar® should be administered **only** as an intramuscular injection
- The *Canadian Immunization Guide* 2002 (6<sup>th</sup> edition) recommends using at least a 2.2 cm. (7/8 inch) needle for those with little muscle mass, such as infants and at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) needles for all others.

### **Prevnar® vaccine storage and handling**

- Do not freeze
- Store refrigerated away from freezer at +2°C to +8°C
- Maintain no more than a one month supply of vaccine at a time
- In the event of a cold chain failure, contact Peel Health immediately

**For more information please call Peel Health at (905)791-7800**