



**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

**Ministère de la Santé
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Care Providers

RE: Introducing Prevnar[®]13 for Immunization Against Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) for Infants and Children

This letter is to inform you that a new pneumococcal conjugate vaccine known as Prevnar[®]13 is now available and is publicly funded in Ontario for infants and children. The vaccine was approved for use in Canada in December 2009 and provides broader protection against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD).

The Vaccine

Prevnar[®]13 is a 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine indicated for active immunization against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F and 23F, which are responsible for causing invasive pneumococcal disease.

The vaccine provides protection against 6 more serotypes (1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F and 19A) than the serotype coverage provided in the Prevnar[®] (7-valent) vaccine and 3 more serotypes than the coverage provided in the Synflorix[™] vaccine.

The unique serotypes contained in Prevnar[®]13 which are not in either Prevnar[®] (7-valent) or Synflorix[™] are **3, 6A and 19A**.

Background

In 2005, Ontario introduced a publicly funded pneumococcal conjugate immunization program with Prevnar[®] (7-valent) vaccine for all infants and children < 2 years of age to protect against pneumococcal serotypes 4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F and 23F. In 2009, Synflorix[™] vaccine replaced Prevnar[®] (7-valent) to provide protection against 3 additional serotypes (1, 5 and 7F).

Since the introduction of the pneumococcal immunization program in Ontario, there has been a dramatic shift in the epidemiology of IPD. While there has been a decline in the incidence of pediatric IPD caused by serotypes contained in the Prevnar[®] (7-valent) vaccine, the incidence of IPD caused by non-vaccine serotypes has increased, particularly for one and two-year old children. Across Canada and the United States, the incidence of disease due to non vaccine strains, in particular serotypes 3 and 19A that are now contained in Prevnar[®] 13, have increased.

Please refer to the following attachments and links for additional information:

- Eligibility criteria and detailed schedules for Prevnar[®]13 (Attachment A):
 - Table 1: Routine pneumococcal conjugate immunization
 - Table 2: Catch-up pneumococcal conjugate immunization
 - Table 3: Prevnar[®] 13 schedules for low risk children
 - Table 4: Prevnar[®] 13 schedules for high risk children
- Qs & As for Health Units (Attachment B)
- Qs & As for Health Care Providers (Attachment C)
- Fact sheet on pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and invasive pneumococcal disease
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/immun/pnem_conjugate.html
- Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/immun/pdf/schedule.pdf>
- Prevnar[®]13 product monograph
http://www.wyeth.ca/en/products/Product%20Monographs%20PDFs/Prevnar_13_Product_Monograph_Dec_21_2009_EN.pdf

Kindly share this information with appropriate staff in your practice. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact your local public health unit. A list of health units can be found at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/contact/phu/phuloc_mn.html.

We thank you for your continued support with and commitment to the publicly funded immunization program and protecting our children against vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Dr. David Williams

David Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Health Protection & Prevention

Attachments

c: Vaccine Preventable Diseases Managers, Ontario Public Health Units