



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH

**\*\* PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF \*\***

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Bureau of Immunization  
2 Lafayette Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Colleague:

The Food and Drug Administration has recently approved a 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. This vaccine, PCV13 (Prevnar 13<sup>TM</sup>), manufactured by Wyeth Vaccines, (now part of Pfizer, Inc.) is manufactured in the same manner and uses the same carrier protein as PCV7; the inclusion of the 6 additional serotypes expands protection against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) and otitis media. In particular, PCV13 provides protection against serotype 19A, which is identified as causing an increasing proportion of IPD. PCV13 will replace the currently available PCV7.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that PCV13 replace PCV7 for routine immunization of infants and children (see attachment):

- All infants should receive their primary PCV series at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, and a booster dose, on time, at 12 through 15 months of age.
- Children who have started their vaccination series with PCV7 should complete the series by switching to PCV13 at any point in the schedule.

New recommendations are that:

- A single supplemental dose of PCV13 is recommended for all children 14 through 59 months of age (<5 years) who have completed the primary series with PCV7 (4 doses of PCV7 or other age-appropriate PCV7 schedule).
- All children with underlying medical conditions should receive a single supplemental dose of PCV13 through age 71 months (<6 years).
- Children 6 through 18 years of age with sickle cell disease, HIV-infection or other immunocompromising conditions, cochlear implants or cerebrospinal fluid leaks may receive a single dose of PCV13, regardless of whether they previously received PCV7 or pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).

Children 2 through 18 years of age who are at increased risk for IPD should receive PPSV23.

These published recommendations are available at  
[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5909a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm5909a2\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5909a2.htm?s_cid=mm5909a2_e)

Wyeth vaccines has indicated that there is a full return policy for all privately purchased, unused PCV7 through December 31, 2010. Please ask your distributor or Wyeth representative for more information, or contact Wyeth Vaccines at 800-666-7248. When PCV13 is available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, we will automatically substitute PCV13 for PCV7 orders.

For questions related to vaccine supply, contact the VFC Program at 212-447-8175. For questions about the Citywide Immunization Registry, call 212-676-2323. For professional or technical questions, call the Bureau of Immunization, at 212-676-2259.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc  
Assistant Commissioner