



MEDICAL SUPPLY BULLETIN

HHS SUPPLY SERVICE CENTER

PERRY POINT, MD 21902

We Service the World

Steven Pearson, Director

Annette Quiñones, R.Ph., Editor

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Meningococcal Vaccine Update

Our Valued Customers:

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Knowing whether meningitis is caused by a virus or bacterium is important because the severity of illness and the treatment differ depending on the cause. Viral meningitis is generally less severe and clears up without specific treatment. But bacterial meningitis can be quite severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss, or learning disabilities. The disease can progress quickly and take the life of a child within 24 hours. For bacterial meningitis, it is also important to know which type of bacteria is causing the meningitis because antibiotics can prevent some types from spreading and infecting other people.

Currently there are three meningococcal vaccines that are licensed and available in the U.S. One is a quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccine (Menomune®), and the other two are conjugate vaccines using diphtheria toxoid (Menactra®) or diphtheria CRM (Menveo®) as the carrier protein. All of these vaccines are currently approved for use in children as young as two years of age and available at the Supply Service Center.

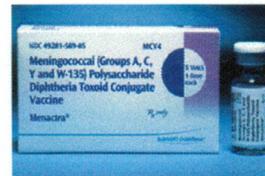
Menomune® 6505-00-000-2725 from Sanofi Pasteur.

Menomune – A/C/Y/W-135 vaccine is approved for use in persons 2 years of age and older. But because it's the only vaccine for now that can be used in people older than 55 it is reserved for that age group. Available in a single dose vial with diluents. The vaccine must be reconstituted before administration.



Menactra® under 6505-01-527-3994 from Sanofi Pasteur.

Menactra vaccine became the first quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine available in the United States for use in infants as young as 9 months of age up to 55 years old as of April 2011. Available in 5 single dose vials.



Menveo® under 6505-00-000-7884 from Novartis

Menveo is available for use in persons 2 through 55 years of age. The container closures (synthetic rubber stoppers) do not contain latex. Available in 5 single dose vials with diluents. The vaccine must be reconstituted before administration.



For further information on the meningococcal disease or vaccine please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov>. As always, we thank you for your continued patronage with the HHS Supply Service Center.


Steven Pearson