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來函檔號 Your Ref :  
電話 Tel. :  
傳真 Fax No. :

27 August 2010

Dear Doctor,

**Use of 10-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine  
in Childhood Immunisation Programme of Hong Kong**

To prevent invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD) in young children, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) has been incorporated into the local Childhood Immunisation Programme of Hong Kong since September 2009 and it has been provided free of charge at Department of Health's Maternal & Child Health Centres (MCHC). From the start of the vaccination program until the present, Wyeth/Pfizer's Prevenar® (7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine/PCV7) was used as it was the only PCV available at the time of vaccine purchase. Over the ensuing months, other PCVs, namely GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) Synflorix® (10-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine/PCV10) and Wyeth/Pfizer's Prevenar13® (13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine/PCV13), were registered in Hong Kong in July 2009 and in May 2010 respectively. For PCV supply in the coming year, another tender exercise was conducted and the tender was awarded to the 10-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV10). A new pneumococcal vaccine (PCV10) will replace the existing pneumococcal vaccine (PCV7) in the Government's childhood immunization program (CIP) in October 2010.

PCV10 contains capsular antigens of 10 serotypes of pneumococci (1, 4, 5, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F and 23F) in which seven of them are common to the serotypes contained in PCV7. The conjugate in PCV7 is CRM<sub>197</sub> (non-toxic cross-reacting mutant of diphtheria toxin) and that in PCV 10 are Protein D (cell-surface protein of non-typeable *Haemophilus influenzae*), tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid; all are from bacterial source that have either been used as vaccine or commensals in humans.

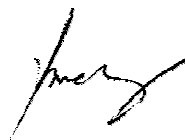
The routine immunization schedule of PCV10 is the same as PCV7, i.e. three primary doses at 2, 4, 6 months of age and followed by one booster dose given at one year of



age.

The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) opines that PCV10 is non-inferior to PCV7 in terms of safety and immunogenicity. Children who have been receiving PCV7 can switch directly to PCV10, whether for the primary series or the booster dose. The same practice was adopted in some provinces in Canada, where >80,000 children were immunized this way. You may wish to visit the Centre for Health Protection website at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\\_on\\_the\\_interchangeability\\_between\\_pcv7\\_and\\_pcv10.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_the_interchangeability_between_pcv7_and_pcv10.pdf) to access the full SCVPD recommendation on the interchangeability between PCV7 and PCV10.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health

