

## Memo

**TO:** Health care providers providing routine immunizations  
**FROM:** Immunization Program, Peterborough Public Health  
**DATE:** May 7, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Conversion of Pediacel® to Pentacel® in Canada

Beginning in April 2024, Sanofi Pasteur will be discontinuing the product Pediacel® and switching to Pentacel® in Canada. Pentacel® is indicated for the primary immunization of infants, from the age of 2 months, and in children up to 6 years of age (prior to their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday), against invasive haemophilus influenzae type b disease, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and poliomyelitis.

The formulation and manufacturing processes for Pediacel and Pentacel vaccines are nearly identical (except for final presentation) and the products are fully interchangeable.

The key difference between the two products is that Pentacel® is supplied as a vial of Act-HIB® and a vial of Quadracel® and **requires reconstitution prior to administration.**

For more information, please review the following documents:

- Q&A for Health Care Providers: Conversion of Pediacel® to Pentacel® in Canada: (attached)
- How to Reconstitute Pentacel® (attached)
- Pentacel product monograph [pentacel-en \(sanofi.com\)](http://pentacel-en.sanofi.com)



If you have questions regarding this memo you can speak to a Public Health Nurse in the Immunization Program by calling 705-743-1000, ext. 242.

## Questions and Answers for Health Care Providers: Conversion of Pediacel® to Pentacel® in Canada

### **Q1. Are Pediacel® vaccine and the Pentacel® vaccine equivalent and interchangeable?**

Both the Pediacel® vaccine and the Pentacel® vaccine are pentavalent vaccines used to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) in children from the age of 2 months, and in children up to 6 years of age (prior to their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday).

Although there are differences in the presentation between Pediacel® and Pentacel®, they are equivalent and interchangeable.

### **Q2. If an infant has received one or two doses of Pediacel®, can the primary series be completed with Pentacel®?**

Yes. As recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), “The routine primary immunization series of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid, pertussis, poliomyelitis, Haemophilus influenzae type b-containing vaccine should be completed with an appropriate combination vaccine from the same manufacturer whenever possible. However, if the original vaccine is unknown or unavailable, an alternative combination vaccine from a different manufacturer may be used to complete the primary series.”

### **Q3. Can health care providers use their remaining inventory of Pediacel®?**

Yes. The doses of Pediacel® vaccine that will be distributed in 2024 can be used until the expiration date (refer to date listed on the packaging).

### **Q4. Can the Quadracel® supplied as part of Pentacel® be administered on its own?**

No. Most children requiring booster vaccination of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio should receive Tdap-IPV (Adacel-Polio or Boostrix-Polio).

### **Q5. When is the change from Pediacel® to Pentacel® happening?**

You may begin seeing Pentacel® in your orders as early as May 2024.

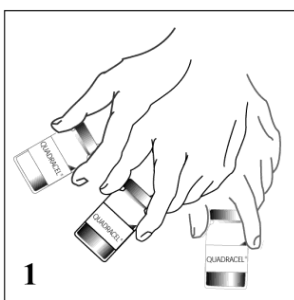
### **Q6. Who can I contact in case of any product-specific questions related to the new Pentacel®?**

For specific questions related to Pentacel® please contact the MedInfo team at Sanofi Pasteur at 1-888-621-1146.

## How to Reconstitute Pentacel®

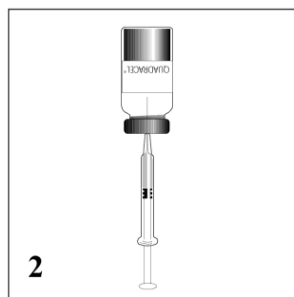
### *Reconstitution of Freeze-Dried Product and Withdrawal from Stopped Vial*

Reconstitute Act-HIB® [Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Tetanus Protein Conjugate)] with the QUADRACEL® vaccine. Cleanse the QUADRACEL® and Act-HIB® vial stoppers with a suitable germicide before reconstitution. Do not remove the stoppers or the metal seals holding them in place from either vial. Thoroughly but gently shake the vial of QUADRACEL®, withdraw the entire contents of the liquid vaccine and inject slowly into the vial of lyophilized Act-HIB®. Swirl the vial now containing PENTACEL® gently until a uniform, cloudy, white to off-white suspension results. Withdraw the total volume of reconstituted combined vaccine. PENTACEL® should be used immediately after reconstitution.



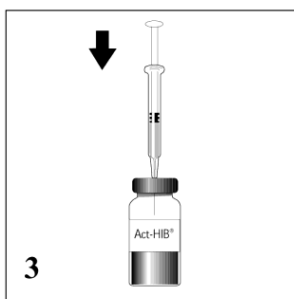
**Figure 1**

Gently shake the vial of QUADRACEL®.



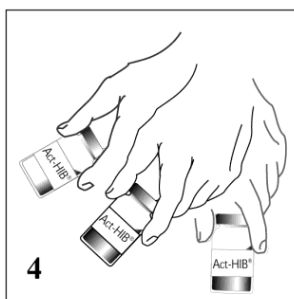
**Figure 2**

Withdraw the entire liquid content.



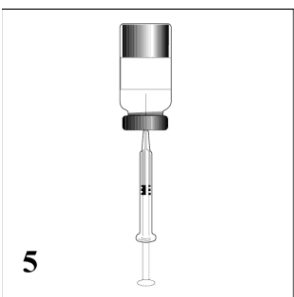
**Figure 3**

Insert the syringe needle through the stopper of the vial of lyophilized ActHIB vaccine component and inject the liquid into the vial.



**Figure 4**

Swirl vial gently.



**Figure 5**

After reconstitution, immediately withdraw 0.5 mL of PENTACEL® and administer **intramuscularly**. PENTACEL® should be used immediately after reconstitution.