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IN BRIEF

A New Hib Booster

In 2007, Merck voluntarily recalled some lots of PedvaxHIB and Comvax, two Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccines, and temporarily stopped their production because of possible contamination, resulting in a shortage during which pediatricians were urged to defer giving Hib booster doses (normally given at 12-15 months) to healthy children. Now the FDA has granted accelerated licensure of Hiberix (GlaxoSmithKline), a monovalent vaccine conjugated with tetanus toxoid that has been used in Europe since 1996, as a booster (final) dose of the Hib series in children 15 months-4 years old. Hiberix can also be given to children 12-15 months old as a scheduled booster dose.1

1. Licensure of a Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine (Hiberix) and updated recommendations for use of Hib vaccine. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2009; 58:1008.