



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section**

1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1917

Tel 919-707-5550 • Fax 919-870-4824


Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

June 15, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) Providers

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head 
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: McKesson Specialty Packaging Changes for UCVDP Providers

The purpose of this memo is to alert UCVDP providers of changes in the boxes used to ship vaccines. From June 22 through August 14, 2009, McKesson will be phasing in a new shipping box. This new box has been thoroughly tested in laboratory conditions as well as real-world shipping conditions and has been approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). McKesson collaborated with an independent firm with cold chain technology expertise to conduct this testing.

The biggest change is that you will no longer be able to return shipping boxes to McKesson for recycling/reuse. Therefore the boxes no longer have pre-printed return address labels.

We recommend that providers keep one or two boxes for returning expired or non-viable vaccine to the Immunization Branch in Raleigh. McKesson plans on implementing the new box using a phased-in approach. The timeline for implementation will be as follows:

- Approximately 20% of all orders – 6/22/09 – 7/1/09
- Approximately 40% of all orders – 7/1/09 – 7/14/09
- Approximately 60% of all orders – 7/14/09 – 7/30/09
- Approximately 80% of all orders – 7/30/09 – 8/14/09
- Approximately 100% of all orders – 8/14/09

Thank you in advance for your support during this implementation.

If you have questions, please contact the UCVDP Help Desk, at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc: SMT NC Immunization Branch Steve Shore Greg Griggs Maclyn Powell
Joy Reed NCIB Field Services Ann Nance Vaccine Manufacturers Jessica Gerdes

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