



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief,  
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Combined Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (MMRV) Vaccine

**MMRV One-Page Highlights:**

In September 2005, the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed a live, attenuated measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine [*Proquad*®, Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, New Jersey]. MMRV has the potential of reducing the number of injections needed for routine childhood vaccination.

- Who should get MMRV?
  - Children aged 12 months to 12 years who need a first dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), and varicella vaccine.
  - Children aged 12 months to 12 years who need a second dose of MMR and either a first or second dose (as indicated) of varicella vaccine.
- The vaccine reactions and immunity from MMRV are comparable to those from varicella and MMR vaccines given separately.
- MMRV is administered subcutaneously.
- **Reconstituted MMRV must be discarded if not used within 30 minutes. We now recommend storage of all live vaccines (MMR, MMRV, and varicella) in the freezer at 5° F or below to prevent damaging varicella and MMRV through inadvertent refrigeration.**

Additional Information is available on the web about:

- MMRV: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5447.pdf>
- MMRV product insert: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/label/mmrvmr090605LB.pdf>
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations on measles, mumps, and rubella: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4708.pdf>.
- ACIP varicella recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4511.pdf>
- 2006 Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Schedule: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5451.pdf>

**Additional details about MMRV:****Potential Vaccine Reactions**

Potential reactions to MMRV have been studied in children between 12-23 months of age. 4,497 children were given MMRV vaccine, and 2,038 were given varicella and MMR vaccines separately. Local and systemic reactions were comparable except for the following:

Vaccine received	MMRV	MMR + Varicella
Potential reaction		
Fever of $\geq 102^{\circ}\text{F}$	21.5%	14.9%
Measles-like rash	3.0%	2.1%
Rash at Injection-site	2.3%	1.5%

More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5447.pdf>.

**Contraindications and Precautions to MMRV**

<b>Contraindications:</b>	<b>Precautions:</b>
Pregnancy	Tuberculosis treatment
Moderate or Severe Acute Illness	Egg allergies
Neomycin allergy	Gelatin allergies
Severely immunocompromised	Thrombocytopenia
	Leukemia (in remission)

More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4708.pdf> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4511.pdf>.

**Storage and Handling**

The vaccine is supplied as a package of 10 single-dose vials of lyophilized vaccine and a separate package of 10 vials of sterile water diluent. It should be reconstituted with the packaged diluent. Before reconstitution, the vaccine must be stored frozen at an average temperature of  $<5^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $<-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Diluent is stored separately at room temperature ( $68-77^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $20-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or refrigerated ( $36-46^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $2-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

**Reconstituted MMRV must be discarded if not used within 30 minutes.**

**Note difference from varicella vaccine which can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 72 hours and MMR, which can be refrigerated for up to 8 hours after reconstitution. Please note this important difference. We recommend storage of all live vaccines (MMR, MMRV, and varicella) in the freezer at  $5^{\circ}\text{F}$  or below (to prevent damaging varicella and MMRV through inadvertent refrigeration).**

## Ordering Information

VFC providers may order MMRV using the attached order form. Please be sure to take into account your current inventory of MMR and varicella when placing your initial order. Maintain a copy of your order form for your files. Please be aware that your orders of MMRV may be adjusted, especially in this introductory phase.

## Billing Information

**CHDP:** Claims may be submitted for doses of MMRV administered on or after March 1, 2006. The CHDP administration fee is \$9.00 using CHDP code **74**. However, providers should wait until notified by CHDP to submit claims. CHDP Provider Notices can be found at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/publications.htm>.

**Medi-Cal:** MMRV is a covered benefit for the VFC program. A CPT code for MMRV for use in individuals, beginning at 12 months through 18 years of age will be issued. For an interim period, this drug will be billed with CPT-4 code **90749 (unlisted vaccine/toxoid) and modifier -SL (VFC-supplied vaccine)** retroactive to dates of service on or after March 1, 2006. Once the new CPT code is determined, Medi-Cal Providers will be notified through Medi-Cal's **General Medicine (GM) Bulletins**. These bulletins can be found at [http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Pubsframe.asp?hURL=/pubsdoco/all\\_bulletins.asp&Type=gm](http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Pubsframe.asp?hURL=/pubsdoco/all_bulletins.asp&Type=gm).

For additional information, contact your local VFC Representative or the VFC customer service line at (877) 243-8832.

Enclosure: Vaccine Order Form

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