

# Children's Health

## Take A New "Shot" At Childhood Disease Prevention... And Spare Your Child Up To Six Shots

(NAPSA)—Children receive approximately 20 injections in the first two years of life. For parents who would like to lower the number of shots their children receive, there's good news. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has just approved a new vaccine, GlaxoSmithKline's PEDIARIX™ [Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Adsorbed, Hepatitis B (Recombinant) and Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine Combined], that protects against five serious childhood diseases simultaneously, thereby reducing the number of shots needed by up to six. The first five-in-one combination vaccine in the United States, PEDIARIX protects children against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and polio—five serious diseases.

The current immunization schedule, recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) call for approximately 20 immunizations for children in their first two years of life. That can mean up to five shots for the child at an office visit. Using PEDIARIX at 2, 4 and 6 months of age will reduce the number of shots children receive.\*

"As a pediatrician, I see how emotional it can be for parents to watch their child receive so many shots at every routine checkup. With PEDIARIX, that number can be reduced to only three—that's up to six fewer shots for the infant within his or her first six months of life," noted Joel Ward, M.D., director of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Vaccine Research, Research and Education Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and principal clinical trial investigator. "I've seen how relieved parents were that their infant didn't get as many shots to receive safe protection against five serious diseases."

Vaccines are one of the most important tools we have in keeping serious diseases at bay. Life-threatening diseases such as polio, which affected 20,000 people each year in the United States in the early 1950s, are nearly eradicated as a result of widespread vaccina-



**Good news for children and their parents: a new vaccine may mean fewer shots for many kids.**

tion. Combination vaccines—vaccines that protect against more than one disease, such as the DTP vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis—have been available and widely used for 56 years. In fact, ACIP, AAP and AAFP prefer the use of licensed combination vaccines versus separate injections of their equivalent component vaccines. This preference is based on the rationale that the use of combination vaccines is a practical way to overcome the constraints of multiple injections. To minimize the number of injections children receive, parenteral combination vaccines should be used, if licensed and indicated for the patient's age, instead of their equivalent component vaccines.

In clinical studies, adverse events in infants receiving PEDIARIX included injection-site reactions (pain, redness, or swelling), fever, and fussiness. Administration of PEDIARIX was associated with higher rates of fever relative to separately administered vaccines (see Adverse Reaction section of the package insert). This did not result in clinically relevant consequences. PEDIARIX is contraindicated in infants with known hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine including yeast, neomycin, and polymyxin B. As with any vaccine, vaccination with PEDIARIX may not protect 100% of susceptible individuals.

If you would like to learn more about how to ease your child's discomfort at immunization time or for information about PEDIARIX, talk to your child's healthcare professional or call 1-866-PEDIARIX.

\* See complete prescribing information for indication.

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**Note to Editors:** For additional information and complete PEDIARIX prescribing information, call GlaxoSmithKline toll-free at 1-866-PEDIARIX. PEDIARIX is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Rixensart, Belgium and distributed by GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. PEDIARIX is a trademark of GlaxoSmithKline.