



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

July 16, 2015

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Colleague:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on June 24-25, 2015 and expanded its recommendations for the use of the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine (MenB) series.

In addition to being recommended for high-risk groups, as indicated in our [June 8, 2015 letter](#), MenB may be administered to adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years of age to provide short-term protection against most *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B strains. The preferred age for MenB vaccination is 16 through 18 years of age, in order to provide protection during a period in which the incidence of invasive meningococcal disease is increased.

High-risk groups include the following:

- Persons with persistent complement component deficiencies, including inherited or chronic deficiencies in C3, C5-9, properdin, factor D, factor H, or taking eculizumab (Solaris®)
- Persons with anatomic or functional asplenia, including sickle cell disease
- Microbiologists routinely exposed to isolates of *N. meningitidis*
- Persons identified to be at increased risk because of a serogroup B meningococcal disease outbreak

MenB should be administered as either a 2-dose series of MenB-4C (Bexsero® [Novartis]) or as a 3-dose series of MenB-FHbp (Trumenba® [Pfizer]). There is no preference for one product over the other, though the same vaccine product should be used for all doses. MenB may be administered concomitantly with all other indicated vaccines, including a meningococcal serogroup ACWY vaccine.

Both vaccines are available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and private distributors. MenB should be covered by private insurance though, as has been the case with other new vaccines, there might be a time lag between ACIP recommendation and routine coverage by private insurance. If reimbursement for MenB is denied, contact that insurance company in order to ascertain that the company is aware that the vaccine is now ACIP-recommended and should be covered. Confirm that payment will be made if the claim is resubmitted and then resubmit the claim. If you continue to have a problem, contact the Bureau of Immunization at the number or e-mail below.

Please contact us at nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or 347-396-2400 if you have any questions. Thank you for your efforts in protecting New Yorkers from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc