



Vaccine Update

November 1, 2024

DISTRIBUTED BY

NS Health Vaccine Consult Service

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO

PANS, NSCP, Nova Scotia Health, Primary Health Care, Public Health, and Continuing Care

CONTACT

NS Health Vaccine Consult Service
1-833-768-1151 or VaccineConsult@nshealth.ca

ISSUE

- Best practice
- Drug shortage
- Pack size/packaging change
- Medication change
- Recall
- Medication/Vaccine Advisory
- Other:

Pentacel® Preparation Safety Alert

In April 2024 there was a transition of Nova Scotia’s publicly funded DTaP-IPV-Hib product from Pediacel® to Pentacel® for the Routine Childhood Immunization Program. These products are interchangeable and children who started their vaccination series with Pediacel® should complete their series with Pentacel®. All previous doses of Pediacel® are considered valid and the series does not need to be restarted.

While the products are interchangeable there are notable differences in packaging and preparation. Pediacel®, the product used prior to April 2024, was a ready-to-use suspension in a single vial. Pentacel® however, is supplied in a box containing 5 single dose vials of *Haemophilus influenzae B* (Hib) freeze-dried vaccine (Act-HIB®) AND 5 single dose vials of DTaP-IPV vaccine solution (QUADRACEL®). The QUADRACEL® solution must be used to reconstitute the vial of Act-HIB®. The mixed components produce Pentacel®. QUADRACEL® is not used alone for DTaP-IPV vaccination in the NS Routine Vaccination Schedule.

The Vaccine Consult Service (VCS) has received requests for support navigating Pentacel® reconstitution errors. Two issues have been identified:

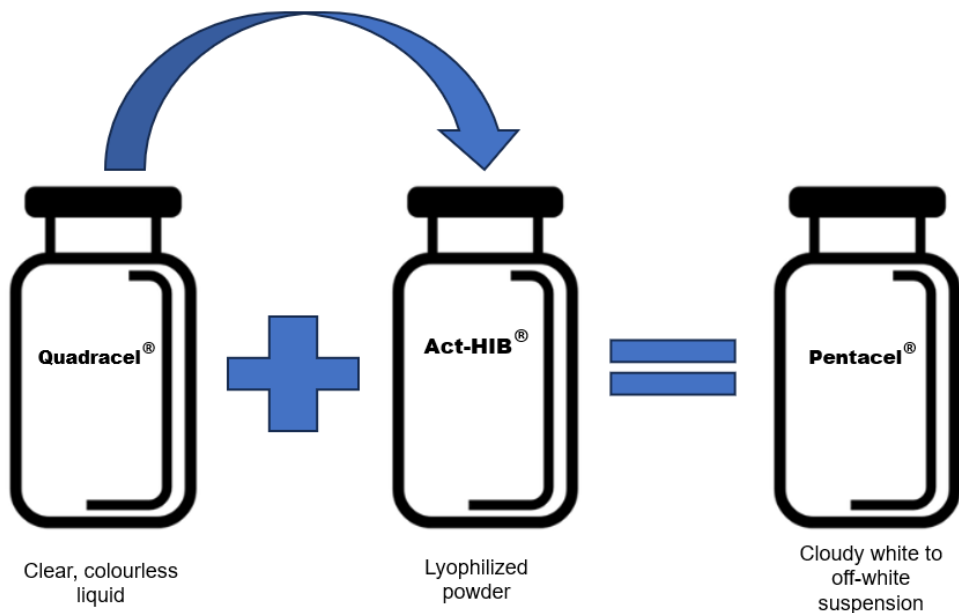
1. QUADRACEL® should not be given without reconstituting and administering lyophilized Act-HIB®.
2. Administration of Act-HIB® separately using an inappropriate diluent.

To reduce the risk of reconstitution errors and inadequate Hib immunization please review the following instructions for Pentacel® preparation.

Vaccine Update

Pentacel® Preparation Instructions

- Cleanse the QUADRACEL® and Act-HIB® vial stoppers with an alcohol swab
- Thoroughly but gently shake the vial of QUADRACEL®, withdraw the entire contents of the liquid vaccine and inject slowly into the vial of lyophilized Act-HIB®
- Swirl the vial now containing Pentacel® (QUADRACEL® plus Act-HIB®) gently until a uniform, cloudy, white to off-white suspension results
- Withdraw the total volume of reconstituted combined vaccine (0.5 mL)
- Pentacel® should be used immediately after reconstitution



Vaccine Update

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECONSTITUTION OF QUADRACEL® WITH Act-HIB®

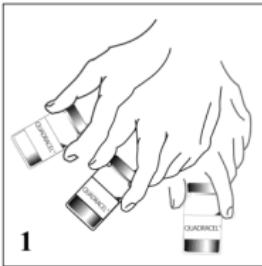


Figure 1
Gently shake
the vial of
QUADRACEL®.

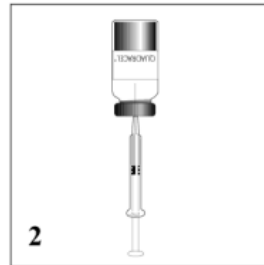


Figure 2
Withdraw
the entire liquid
content.

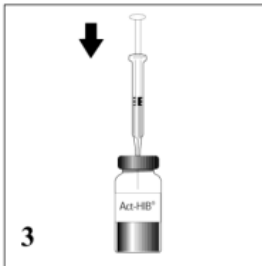


Figure 3
Insert the syringe
needle through the
stopper of the vial
of lyophilized
ActHIB vaccine
component and inject
the liquid into the vial.

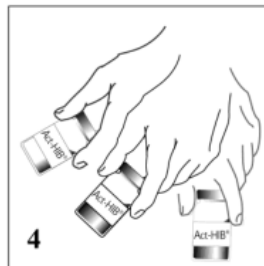


Figure 4
Swirl vial
gently.



Figure 5
After reconstitution, immediately withdraw
0.5 mL of PENTACEL® and administer
intramuscularly. PENTACEL® should be used
immediately after reconstitution.