



REALLOCATING VACCINE DURING THE 2005-06 INFLUENZA SEASON

Public health departments and health care providers and institutions involved in reallocating influenza vaccine this year should be aware of the following information from the FDA.

The possibility of shortages or delays in distribution of influenza vaccine this influenza season constitute emergency medical reasons, within the meaning of Section 503(c)(3)(B)(iv) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDC Act), as determined by FDA. It is therefore permissible under the FDC Act for a hospital or health care entity to redistribute influenza vaccine to alleviate shortages this influenza season.

When redistribution occurs, the hospital or health care entity that is redistributing influenza vaccine should document and maintain the following information:

- vaccine brand name
- manufacturer and distributor
- lot number
- number of doses transferred
- recipient's name and address

In any such redistribution, the influenza vaccine and its transfer must comply with FDA's current good manufacturing requirements. Information on proper handling, storage, and shipping can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vac_mgt_book.htm#flu

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/flu
or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish), or (888) 232-6348 (TTY).

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