



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

AUG 07 2009

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, MILITARY VACCINE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Availability of Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine, IXIARO, for Department of Defense Use

On March 31, 2009, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new Japanese Encephalitis vaccine, IXIARO. This represented the culmination of a lengthy collaboration between the manufacturer and the Department of Defense (DoD) to replace the old Japanese Encephalitis virus vaccine, JE-Vax, a vaccine that is no longer being produced but still stockpiled and used by DoD to protect against Japanese Encephalitis. To insure that DoD would be able to protect at-risk personnel while IXIARO was being developed, the Department established a stockpile of JE-Vax. This stockpile of JE-Vax is projected to be exhausted in April 2010 and has an expiration date of May 2011.

As part of the IXIARO project, DoD committed \$2,000,000 to purchase IXIARO for use before the exhaustion of the JE-Vax stockpile. The purpose of this acquisition was to off-set the initial increased cost of IXIARO to the Services and provides an opportunity to gain post-licensure experience using this new vaccine before the JE-Vax supply was exhausted. Establishment of a stockpile of IXIARO using the allocated \$2,000,000 will take place as soon as possible. Clinics wishing to use IXIARO in place of JE-Vax should not be dissuaded from doing so. Factual information comparing the two products will be available so that vaccine choice is based on the best available data.

My point of contact for this issue is LTC Wayne E. Hachey, he can be reached at (703) 575-2669, or at wayne.hachey@ha.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Noah".

Donald L. Noah, Col, USAF, BSC
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Force Health Protection and Readiness

cc:

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Surgeon General, Navy
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