



**Wyeth Pharmaceuticals**

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**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

**Prevenar\*▼, Wyeth's pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, added to  
UK's routine childhood immunisation programme from Monday,  
4<sup>th</sup> September**

*Taplow, Berkshire, UK, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006* - From 4<sup>th</sup> September, Prevenar, Wyeth's conjugate vaccine against pneumococcal disease, is to be included in the UK national childhood immunisation programme<sup>1</sup>.

All babies will be offered Prevenar at 2, 4 and 13<sup>+</sup> months of age as part of their routine vaccination schedule. In addition, all children up to two years of age will be offered the vaccine as part of a national 'catch-up' programme to ensure all babies and young children in the most vulnerable age group are offered protection against serious pneumococcal diseases<sup>1</sup>.

Pneumococcal infections, caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, can cause a range of life-threatening conditions, such as meningitis, septicaemia (blood poisoning), and pneumonia. Babies and young children are one of the most vulnerable groups<sup>2</sup>. Estimates vary but as many as 50 children under 5 years of age lose their lives from serious pneumococcal infections in England and Wales each year<sup>3</sup>, while many more are left with permanent disabilities, such as brain damage, epilepsy and deafness<sup>4</sup>.

Prevenar, the world's first and only licensed pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, has been available in the UK since 2001 and is already recommended by the Department of Health for babies and young children suffering certain health problems which put them at greatest risk from serious pneumococcal disease<sup>5</sup>.

**ZPRE800 Date of Preparation: 17/08/06**

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Dr David McIntosh, European Medical Director for Infectious Disease at Wyeth and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, Imperial College, London, said: "Wyeth welcomes the Department of Health's decision to include Prevenar in the routine childhood immunisation programme. All babies and young children are vulnerable to these life-threatening and disabling pneumococcal diseases and, as has been the case in the United States, the inclusion of Prevenar in the UK childhood immunisation schedule is expected to lead to a significant reduction in the number of cases of serious pneumococcal disease in babies and young children in this country."

McIntosh continues: "Wyeth is proud to have developed a vaccine that is expected to make an important contribution to the health of children in the UK. In addition to supplying Prevenar to meet the needs of the on-going vaccination programme, Wyeth has also developed a wide range of materials to help support immunisers in the implementation of the programme."

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### Notes for editors

#### About Prevenar

Prevenar (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, adsorbed), developed and manufactured by Wyeth, is the world's first licensed conjugate vaccine against serious pneumococcal diseases, such as bacteraemia, sepsis, meningitis, and bacteraemic pneumonia.

Prevenar offers protection against seven of the most common pneumococcal 'strains' (or serotypes): 4, 6B, 9V, 14, 18C, 19F, and 23F. These seven serotypes are responsible for approximately 80% of the serious pneumococcal disease affecting infants and young children in the UK<sup>6</sup>.

Prior to receiving its licence, Prevenar was extensively tested in clinical trials involving over 40,000 infants and young children<sup>7,8,9</sup>. To date, the vaccine has been given to over 30 million children around the world<sup>10</sup>.

#### *Use of Prevenar in the United States and other countries*

Prevenar has been part of the routine childhood immunisation programme in the United States since 2000. Since its routine introduction in 2000, the incidence of serious pneumococcal disease caused by the seven serotypes in the vaccine has fallen by 94% in

children under five years of age<sup>11</sup>. The impact of the vaccination programme is also demonstrated by a 62% reduction in disease caused by the seven vaccine serotypes in older unvaccinated individuals aged five and over<sup>11</sup>. This significant decline in serious pneumococcal disease in older children and adults who have not been vaccinated points to the 'herd immunity' effect of the vaccination programme<sup>11</sup>.

Since 2005, Prevenar has also been included in the routine childhood immunisation programme of Australia and of most provinces of Canada. Prevenar became part of the national childhood immunisation programme in The Netherlands this year, while there are also wide recommendations for the use of the vaccine in France.

### **About Wyeth**

Wyeth is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with a major focus on developing innovative new medicines to improve health and well-being.

In the UK, Wyeth is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies with a broad portfolio of leading products across a wide range of treatment areas, including rheumatology, gastrointestinal disease, mental health, women's healthcare, haemophilia, prostate cancer, rheumatology, infectious disease, dermatology and transplantation. Wyeth is also a major force in preventative medicine through its Wyeth Vaccines division.

### **References**

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\*Trade mark

†The scheduled visit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of Prevenar + MMR in Northern Ireland is at 15 months.