

**MEMORANDUM**  
**PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Community Health and Clinics Division**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.  
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services  
Mark Starr, D.V.M., M.P.V.M.,  
Director of Community Health, Clinics, and Animal Services

**DATE:** March 24, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Approve purchase of Zostavax vaccine from Merck in the amount of \$3,078.60.

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the purchase of Zostavax vaccine from Merck & Co., Inc. in the amount of \$3,078.60. No County General Funds are included in this request.

**BACKGROUND:**

Zostavax vaccine is recommended for adults over the age of 60 to prevent the occurrence of a painful, contagious rash caused by the chickenpox virus, which is commonly known as shingles. This vaccine had been on back order from late summer 2008 to January 2009. During this six-month period the Community Clinic received a large number of requests for the vaccine and quickly moved to obtain doses to immunize citizens as soon as it became available. The vaccine is only available in boxes of 10 doses for \$1,539.30 per box. In order to meet patient demand, the Clinic inadvertently exceeded its delegated purchasing limit by \$579 when it ordered two boxes of the vaccine.

To enable timely procurement of this valuable preventive medication, Procurement Services Division is preparing a Blanket Purchase Order with Merck. Internal controls are being established in the Community Clinic in order to ensure that County purchasing policies are being followed by all of its employees.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This vaccine is purchased by private-pay Clinic patients at the cost of the vaccine plus 40% to cover the cost of acquisition and administration. The revenue collected exceeds the cost of the vaccine, and no County General Funds are needed for this purchase.

cc: Jim Boggan, Procurement Services Division

