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Sanofi, Merck vaccine to bolster vaccination rates across US

18 January 2019 | News

According to GlobalData, Sanofi and Merck's six-in-one vaccine Vaxelis can reduce shot burden on infants and children in US.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved pharma giants Sanofi and Merck's Vaxelis, a new pediatric vaccine against six diseases. The vaccine will help to bolster vaccination rates across the US by reducing the shot burden on infants and children, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

Vaxelis, which is indicated for active immunization to prevent diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B and invasive disease due to Haemophilus influenzae type b, was developed as part of a joint-partnership between Sanofi and Merck, known as MSD outside the US and Canada.

James Mather, Pharma Analyst at GlobalData, says: "Vaxelis' approval in the US is a major regulatory breakthrough, as the FDA has been more hesitant than the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which approved Vaxelis in 2015, in the acceptance of high-valiancy diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccines."

Unlike its rival six-in-one vaccine in Europe, GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK's) Infanrix Hexa (DTaP-IPV-HepB/Hib), Vaxelis is fully liquid and therefore does not require reconstitution, providing a more convenient route of administration for physicians and their office staff.