

Policy & Procedure Title	Childhood Vaccine Eligibility Statement	Issuing Date	07/17/2012
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Policy & Procedure Approval Authority	<i>Dave McConnick</i>		

Policy Statement

The purpose of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is to increase access to immunizations in order to allow eligible children to remain in their medical home whenever possible. Specific criteria have been established for providers electing to enroll in the VFC program. This policy also applies to any other publicly funded vaccine program enrollment with the Immunization Division.

Eligibility Criteria

Any immunization provider enrolled in the Vaccines for Children program can provide publicly funded vaccine to the following categories:

- Birth through 18 years of age (A child is considered 18 years of age *up to and until* the date of their 19 birthday), and has one of the following:
 - Medicaid
 - American Indian/Alaskan Native
 - No Health Insurance (uninsured)
 - Underinsured (insurance does not cover vaccines)
 - SCHIP
- For eligibility criteria for individuals 19 years of age and older, refer to *Indiana Publicly Funded Adult Vaccine Eligibility Statement*.

Definitions of Eligibility Categories

Medicaid A child who has any form of Medicaid insurance.

- CHIRP: Medicaid
- Administration Fee: Bill to Medicaid, cannot be charged to client as an out of pocket expense.

Insured and Medicaid as Secondary Insurance

- If a child has private health insurance covering vaccines and Medicaid as secondary insurance, the child, under these conditions, can be considered VFC eligible, depending on what is more cost effective for the patient.

American Indian/Alaskan Native A child who identifies as an American Indian or Alaskan Native, regardless of insurance.

- CHIRP: American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Administration Fee: May be charged to client as an out of pocket expense. Not to exceed \$20.32 per vaccine. *Vaccination may not be denied for inability to pay administration fee.*
- No documentation of ethnicity is required.

No Health Insurance A child who does **not** have health insurance.

- CHIRP: Uninsured
- Administration Fee: May be charged to client as an out of pocket expense. Not to exceed \$20.32 per vaccine. *Vaccination may not be denied for inability to pay administration fee.*

CHIP A child who has SCHIP Medicaid Package C

- CHIRP: CHIP
- Administration Fee: Bill to the health administrator. Cannot be charged to client as an out of pocket expense

Insurance Does Not Cover Vaccines (Underinsured) A child who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (these children are categorized as underinsured for non-covered vaccines only), or children whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount (once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured). With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is rare for a child to meet the underinsured eligibility criteria for the VFC Program. Therefore, provider must verify insurance coverage prior to administration of vaccine.

- CHIRP: Underinsured
- Administration Fee: May be charged to client as an out of pocket expense. Not to exceed \$20.32 per vaccine. *Vaccination may not be denied for inability to pay administration fee.*
- The following are NOT considered underinsured
 - Has a high deductible
 - Has 80/20 or percentage-based coverage
 - Has a co-pay
- If the child was vaccinated with private stock vaccine and an insurance denial of payment is later received for that dose, a provider may use the Borrowing Policy to transfer a VFC dose to their private stock. This must be documented on the Borrowing Form and reconciled in CHIRP.

Fully-Insured A child who has health insurance which provides coverage for vaccines.

- CHIRP: Fully Insured
- Fully Insured children must receive private stock vaccine and their insurance billed.
- All immunization providers are required to carry private stock vaccine. The only exception to this is when a provider is an authorized specialty provider

Outbreaks & Mass Vaccination Campaigns

- Currently, Covid-19 vaccines are purchased by the federal government and made available to all children and adults. This is subject to change.
- Previously Approved Mass Vaccination Campaigns
 - H1N1 Campaign – Ended in Spring 2010, all vaccine for H1N1 was purchased by the federal government and made available to all children and adults.
 - School Vaccination Campaign – In 2010 the new school required vaccines, Tdap, MCV & Varicella, were purchased using limited ARRA funds, in addition to state and 317 funds. All students 6th through 12th grade were eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine during mass clinics.
- Mass vaccination campaigns to address specific disease outbreaks may be approved as recommended by



Indiana Department of Health-Immunization Division
the Epidemiology Resource Center (ERC).



Additional Information

Administration Fees

- A child may never be turned away for the inability to pay an administration fee.
 - If the administration fee cannot be paid on the day of service, the provider may bill the patient one time within 90 days. If it is still not paid, the administration fee must be waived.
- Unpaid administration fees may never be sent to collections.
- Donations may be accepted but are voluntary and must have no effect on whether the child will be vaccinated.
- All ACIP recommended vaccinations are available as publicly funded vaccines.
- All immunization providers are required to adhere to the ACIP recommendations for vaccine administration.
- No additional eligibility requirements may be imposed by providers for the receipt of publicly purchased vaccine by eligible children.
 - This includes but is not limited to requirements pertaining to residency, not having an established primary care physician, or the individual requesting data exclusion from the immunization registry.
 - Private providers are not required to provide services to eligible children who are not established patients at their facility.
 - Local health departments are considered by CDC as the safety net providers for the VFC population and they must administer VFC vaccine to any VFC-eligible children who present for immunization services at their facilities.

Vaccine Accountability

- All immunization providers are required to account for all publicly funded vaccine. Documenting all vaccination information in CHIRP as an administered dose is a requirement.

**When State & 317 Funds Are Exhausted

- Only FQHC/RHC and Providers with a DOA will be able to vaccinate underinsured children with publicly funded vaccine.

Administration Fees

- A child may never be turned away for the inability to pay an administration fee.
- Donations may be accepted but are voluntary and have no effect on whether the child will be vaccinated.
- Medicaid Reimbursement is \$15.00 per immunization. This cannot be charged to the client as an out of pocket expense, it must be billed to Medicaid if seeking payment.
- All other eligibility has a maximum administration fee per immunization for out of pocket is \$20.32.

Vaccine Accountability

- All immunization providers are required to account for all publicly funded vaccine. This can be done by documenting all vaccination and eligibility information in CHIRP.



Indiana Department of Health-Immunization Division

Revision History

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