



NJ Vaccines for Children (VFC)

JULY 2014

State Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Plans B, C and D Change in Coverage

Due to changes implemented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the NJ VFC program on October 1, 2013, it has become necessary for providers of members in FamilyCare Plans B, C and D to supply vaccines from their commercial (private) supply. The NJ VFC program will no longer be able to supply vaccines for individuals insured by NJ FamilyCare Plans B, C, and D effective July 1, 2014. The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) will direct NJ FamilyCare managed care plans to pay both provider administration and vaccine supply claims, effective July 1, 2014. DMAHS will include the vaccine costs and administration fees for Plans B, C and D members into the capitation rate for NJ FamilyCare managed care plans with date of service on or after July 1, 2014. The NJ FamilyCare managed care plans will continue to reimburse Plans B, C and D providers solely for the administration costs of vaccination until June 30, 2014, and providers will continue to use NJ VFC supply for these members until that date.

The NJ VFC program will no longer be able to supply vaccines for individuals insured by NJ FamilyCare Plans B, C, and D effective July 1, 2014.

For questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Molina Provider Services at 1-800-776-6334 or the Medicaid Hotline at 1-800-356-1561.

Consult with your electronic medical record (EMR) staff now to confirm that insurance information sent to the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) specifies the type of NJ FamilyCare plan. Some EMRs are set to default the insurance type to Medicaid. The EMR must specify the insurance type as Medicaid, Medicaid Plan A and FamilyCare Plans B, C and D.

Check for VFC eligibility at each vaccination visit. Update the child's health insurance information in NJIIS as needed. On the NJIIS patient information page, enter the name of the insurance company and indicate how the child is eligible for VFC vaccine. NJ FamilyCare Plans B, C and D will no longer be a VFC eligible category for vaccinations given on July 1, 2014 forward.

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Report Cold Chain Failure to NJ VFC Program

Should vaccine be exposed to out-of-range temperatures, get the vaccine into a working refrigerator at proper temperature immediately.

- ◆ Initiate your emergency vaccine relocation plan if there is no working refrigerator in the office.
- ◆ Do not throw out or remove vaccine from the refrigerator after it was exposed to out-of-range temperatures.
- ◆ Label the vaccine “do not use” and separate it from useable vaccine.
- ◆ Call the vaccine manufacturers to determine viability.
- ◆ Record the out-of-range temperature in the temperature log and enter a comment of what was done to keep the vaccine viable.
- ◆ Call the VFC program to notify us of the cold chain failure and the viability of the vaccine.



2013-2014 Flu Season Wrap-up



The NJ VFC program would like to thank everyone for your dedication and hard work in vaccinating patients against the flu. The VFC program shipped 327,380 doses of inactivated flu vaccine as well as 86,620 doses of live attenuated flu vaccine to the community with a total value of \$5,651,635 during this flu season.

The 2014–2015 flu season is on the horizon and the VFC program anticipates having similar processes in place to distribute flu vaccine in the coming year. A notice will be posted on the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIIS) Bulletin Board and an email will be sent to your office to let you know flu vaccine is available—be sure to update your email addresses in Inventory Management Order and Distribution System (IMODS). You may order flu vaccine online as part of your “routine” vaccine order using IMODS or you can place an order by fax. As inventory decreases, you may reorder to maintain stock for each age range and for both inactivated and live attenuated flu vaccine. Since the VFC program only receives a small portion of its full flu vaccine order in August, we may ask that you place a modest initial order. Historically, this limitation lasts less than a few weeks. Flu orders are likely to continue to be expedited and shipped separately from routine vaccine orders.

Adult flu vaccine, purchased through the Section 317 Immunization Program, was very well received this season. Every dose of flu vaccine for adults was shipped to our community partners. The VFC program has requested additional doses of flu vaccine for adults who lack insurance coverage in the coming season.



Ongoing Educational Opportunities

New features are added to the Inventory Management Order and Distribution System (IMODS) and the NJ Immunization Information System (NJIIS) on an ongoing basis. Consider retaking IMODS and NJIIS training to see the new features in action and determine how they may be of help when working in the system.

NJIIS offers introductory classes, (which are an excellent option as a refresher class), as well as advanced classes on specific topics. IMODS and NJIIS Advanced Training classes are offered in webinar form for your convenience. Classes can be found on the NJIIS homepage under NJIIS Training Opportunities, <https://njiis.nj.gov/njiis/>

Benefits of Data Loggers for Ensuring Vaccine Effectiveness

How do you know if your vaccines are safe and effective? You take refrigerator and freezer temperatures twice daily to ensure good vaccine storage. Yet, you cannot check temperatures over the weekend or when the office is closed for vacation. Exposure to inappropriate temperatures reduces vaccine potency and efficacy, thus increasing the risk that patients are not provided with maximum protection against preventable diseases. Using a data logger may be the solution!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highly recommends the use of a data logger to ensure vaccine effectiveness. A data logger continuously monitors and stores refrigerator temperatures. When temperatures are documented twice a day, the temperature is known for those two points in time. Data loggers record the temperature on a schedule, such as every 15 minutes, and can take hundreds to thousands of readings. This information is downloaded into a computer and temperature fluctuations can be seen by date and time, often in graph form.

Vaccines are exposed to temperature fluctuations of which you are not aware. A data logger will record the power going off while the office was closed, it will show when the refrigerator door was left open, and defrost cycles will be recorded. A data logger is an effective tool to know the condition of your vaccine 24 hours a day, every day.

For additional information see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/toolkit-resources.pdf>



NEW REQUIREMENT

Call the NJ VFC Program at least three months before vaccine is due to expire, and we will help you locate another office where the vaccine may be transferred.

Replace or Recertify an NIST Thermometer Every One -Two Years



All NJ VFC providers must have a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified, calibrated thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer. This certificate informs the user of a thermometer's level of accuracy compared to a recognized standard. Keep the NIST certification document on file for reference. Know when the NIST certification expires and arrange to have the thermometer recertified or replaced by the expiration date.

Always have a back-up NIST certified thermometer. If a thermometer fails or if it is sent out for recertification, another NIST certified thermometer must take its place.

Should you purchase a new NIST certified thermometer, select one with a digital display, a temperature probe inside a bottle of glycol, attachable to the exterior of the refrigerator and able to record the high/low temperatures of the prior 24 hours. Replace thermometer batteries on a regular cycle, just as you replace smoke detector batteries at home. A blinking display usually indicates that the batteries need to be replaced.

Vaccine Updates

- ◆ As of 5/1/14, Pentacel and Daptacel are no longer on allocation and can be ordered in quantities appropriate for your office.
- ◆ Menhibrix, a combination vaccine of Meningococcal groups C and Y and Hib PRP-T, is available from the VFC program. Menhibrix is recommended only for those infants at increased risk of meningococcal disease. Please see the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) for recommendations on the use of Menhibrix.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6203a3.htm>
Providers who plan to order Menhibrix should have a child identified who requires this vaccine.
- ◆ All VFC supplied FluMist has expired. Remove expired vaccine from the refrigerator and request a waste return label to return the vaccine to McKesson.
- ◆ All flu vaccine for the 2013-14 season expired on 6/30/14. Remove expired vaccine from the refrigerator and obtain a waste return label to return it to McKesson Specialty. Flu vaccine from the 2013-14 season cannot be used for the 2014-15 season.

