



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
PO BOX 369
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0369

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

TO: All NJVFC and Adult Providers

FROM: New Jersey Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program

SUBJECT: Vaccines for New Jersey FamilyCare Plans B, C and D Participants

DATE: October 31, 2011

Since 1999, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) has provided vaccines at no cost to eligible children through the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program. This Program, funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides vaccines to those children who are Medicaid eligible (including New Jersey FamilyCare Plan A participants), uninsured or underinsured (through Federally-Qualified Health Centers or participating local health departments).

A clarification memo issued by the CDC in August 2011 identifies children enrolled in the Separate Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) plans as ineligible to receive vaccines through VFC funding. The CDC considers children (0-18 years of age) covered under New Jersey FamilyCare Plans B, C and D as insured and, therefore, ineligible for the VFC Program. This classification **does not** affect children covered under New Jersey FamilyCare Plan A, as these individuals are considered Medicaid-eligible and may participate in the VFC Program.

The CDC has established a deadline of October 1, 2011 for these changes to go into effect, after which, no VFC vaccines may be administered to children insured through New Jersey Family Care Plans B, C and D. In order to ensure continued seamless access to vaccines for these children, NJDHSS has been working toward an agreement to offer vaccines through its established VFC Program. This agreement required the participation of many stakeholders including the NJ Department of Treasury and the NJ Department of Human Services to establish mechanisms for proper distribution of vaccine and cost accountability.

The NJDHSS is pleased to announce that we **will** be able to continue to offer vaccines to all New Jersey FamilyCare B, C, and D participants using the current established VFC mechanisms with little to any disruption to providers. However, CDC and NJDHSS will need to account for those vaccines ordered for FamilyCare B, C, and D participants as non-VFC funds will pay for vaccines for these children. To that end, providers should continue to order vaccines for all their Medicaid, New Jersey

FamilyCare, uninsured and/or underinsured patients through the VFC Program, but should ensure the following measures are in place at their practice:

1. Please continue to screen for and record VFC eligibility status. Entry of vaccination information into the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIIS) must occur within 30 days of vaccine administration with proper indication of VFC eligibility status (Medicaid, FamilyCare A, FamilyCare B, C, D, uninsured, and American Indian/Alaska Native).
2. If you have an Electronic Medical Record/Practice Management System in place, the vaccination administration record **with** VFC eligibility status must be transmitted to the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIIS) within 30 days of administration.
3. Annual VFC enrollment forms must be submitted during the identified period. Special attention should be paid to the provider profile and accurately recording patient numbers and appropriately assigning age and insurance type demographics. Correlations and continuous data analysis will be drawn from a number of data sets, including VFC enrollment data.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter as the VFC Program moves forward with meeting this challenge. For questions contact the VFC Program at (609) 826-4862.

c: Valerie Harr, Director
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services