

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR VFC PROGRAM

TO: VFC Providers
FROM: Linda Kasebier, MPH, MSHS, VFC Administrator
Illinois Department of Public Health
Kelly Cunningham, Deputy Administrator
Division of Medical Programs, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
CC: VFC Compliance Staff, Immunization Leads, IDPH RHO's, LHD Immunization Directors – Statewide, and LHD Administrators
DATE: August 22, 2016
SUBJECT: Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program Change for CHIP Vaccines Effective October 1, 2016

This memo is to provide important time-sensitive information to Vaccines For Children (VFC) providers.

Effective October 1, 2016, children needing vaccinations who have All Kids insurance, the state's Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage (referred to as Title XXI [21] or "State Funded") will no longer receive vaccines through the VFC program. Participants through age 18 with Medicaid coverage (referred to as Title XIX [19]) are VFC eligible and may continue to receive vaccines through the VFC program.

At each immunization encounter, providers are required to screen patients and document eligibility status. Before administering vaccines, providers must check the eligibility status in the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) [MEDI system](http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/EDI/medi/Pages/default.aspx) (<http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/EDI/medi/Pages/default.aspx>) or risk non-payment.

If the [MEDI system](http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/EDI/medi/Pages/default.aspx) shows "Title XXI [21]" or "State funded" coverage in the "Special Information" section, the child has All Kids (CHIP) coverage and is **NOT** eligible for VFC vaccines on or after October 1, 2016. VFC providers must privately purchase vaccines for administration to children with All Kids (CHIP) insurance and seek reimbursement from HFS or the HFS Managed Care Organization.

VFC vaccines administered inappropriately to children with insurance, including All Kids (CHIP) coverage, must be replaced with privately purchased vaccines. VFC vaccines and privately purchased vaccines for CHIP children must be stored separately, with each inventory clearly marked as "VFC" or "CHIP /Private Insurance." In I-CARE, children with CHIP coverage should have their VFC status documented as "V01 Not VFC eligible."

If you have further questions about the VFC program, please contact the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Immunization program at 217-786-7500 or electronically through I-CARE by clicking on "Contact Us" and select "VFC Illinois" as the category.

HFS will issue a provider notice that contains detailed billing and process information in the near future. Working together, the VFC program and HFS will offer a webinar in September to review the changes and provide detailed billing and process information. The webinar announcement will be emailed to all VFC providers and posted in I-CARE.

Please review and post all VFC notices so that all staff involved in vaccine administration, management, patient screening, and billing are aware and receive updated protocols as necessary to comply with VFC program requirements.