Information About Vaccine Ordering and Distribution

(for providers)



Universal-Select

What does "Universal-Select" mean?

All children, regardless of insurance status, receive almost all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) at no cost through the immunization program with the exception of certain vaccines. With Universal-Select states, only VFC-eligible children receive all ACIP-recommended vaccines free-of-charge at any enrolled provider (public and private).

In Wyoming, effective July 1, 2011, the VFC-only vaccines include hepatitis A, human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza, and meningococcal conjugate. Any providers who would like to offer these vaccines to their insured patients may purchase private stock vaccine.

How long will Wyoming have a Universal-Select vaccine supply policy?

It is unknown how long Wyoming will offer a Universal-Select vaccine supply policy. The Immunization Section will continue to communicate information to providers to ensure that providers accurately understand policies for the Wyoming Vaccinates Important People (WyVIP) program.

Underinsured

What does "underinsured" mean?

An underinsured child is one who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (underinsured for noncovered vaccines only), or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured.

Are children who have high insurance deductibles considered underinsured? No.

Are underinsured children able to be immunized at any provider office?

Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccines only through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or a provider who has been delegated authority by either an FQHC or an RHC.

How does a provider know whether a child would be categorized as underinsured?

Providers may want to ask the parent or guardian whether his insurance coverage covers "well-child" visits.

What if a parent or guardian doesn't know if her child is underinsured or what vaccines would be covered by her insurance plan?

If a parent or guardian doesn't know if her child is underinsured, the provider has two options:

- $\sqrt{}$ Immunize the child using private stock vaccine and require payment for the immunization at the time of vaccination. The parent or guardian would submit the receipt to her insurance company for reimbursement, if applicable.
- \checkmark Ask the parent or guardian to contact her insurance plan to discuss coverage and arrange for vaccination at a later date. If an insurance plan will pay for the vaccine, the parent or guardian can request that the provider bill for the cost of the immunization. (Note: providers may not bill insurance companies for the cost of publicly-supplied vaccines.)

Are children who are enrolled in KidCare CHIP considered underinsured?

Children who are enrolled in KidCare CHIP are considered insured. All children who are enrolled in KidCare CHIP are eligible for immunizations at participating providers. Since these children are considered insured, they would receive private stock vaccine if being immunized for one of the four VFC-only vaccines.

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(continued)

Delegation of Authority

What does Delegation of Authority mean?

A Delegation of Authority is an agreement between and FQHC or RHC and another medical provider. A Delegation of Authority agreement allows a medical provider to act on behalf of an FQHC or an RHC to administer VFC vaccines to underinsured children. Without an agreement, underinsured children could only receive VFC vaccines at an FQHC or an RHC.

What are the advantages of Delegation of Authority?

Delegation of Authority ensures that underinsured children have access to vaccines, particularly in locations where no FQHC's or RHC's are located.

Does Delegation of Authority mean that providers can vaccinate all children with publicly-provided vaccine?

Delegation of Authority allows Public Health Nursing offices, private providers, and other non -FQHC or non-RHC providers to offer VFC vaccines to underinsured children. It does not mean that all children are eligible for free vaccines at any provider office.

Are Public Health Nursing (PHN) Offices automatically considered an FQHC or RHC? No.

Privately-Purchased Vaccines

If a provider purchases vaccine, can the office charge for the cost of the vaccine?

Providers are able to charge insurance plans for the cost of any privately-purchased vaccines.

If a provider administers privately-purchased vaccines, can he charge more than \$14.31 for a vaccine administration fee?

Providers are able to charge insurance plans more than \$14.31 for the cost of administering privately-purchased vaccines. In addition, providers may charge insurance plans for vaccine toxoids, rather than by dose. For more information about billing insurance plans for vaccines that contain more than one toxoid, visit http://practice.aap.org/content.aspx?aid=2980.

Can providers charge for an office visit when administering privately-purchased vaccines?

Providers may charge for an office visit when administering privately-purchased vaccines. This is established by the provider.

NOTE: If providers have questions about billing insurance plans for privately-purchased vaccines, you may contact Stacie Ross at Northeast Wyoming Pediatric Associates, P.C. at 307-675-5555 for assistance.

Affordable Care Act (ACA)

How will full implementation of the ACA impact immunizations?

Once the ACA has been fully implemented (2014), all insurance plans will be required to pay for all vaccines recommended by the ACIP for all children and adults without any requirements for co-payments or meeting deductibles.

Where can I get more information?

Please call the Wyoming Department of Health's Immunization Section at 307-777-7952.