

Vaccines For Children Program 101

presented by:

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What Is The VFC Program?

- A federal entitlement program designed to reduce or eliminate vaccine cost as a barrier to childhood immunization.
- Funding is awarded to the states through an annual federal grant administered by CDC.
- Vaccines are provided at no charge to public and private providers to improve and expand access to immunization services for VFC-eligible children.
- CDC establishes contracts with vaccine manufacturers to purchase bulk quantities of vaccines at federal contract prices.

Magnitude of the CDC's Vaccines for Children Program

- CDC total budget - \$9.2 billion
- CDC allocates 35% of their annual budget to the immunization program
 - Largest amount to any single program
 - Comparison - 15% of CDC's budget is allocated for terrorism
- From June 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 Missouri distributed \$53,224,000 worth of vaccine (CDC contract price)
- No state dollars are spent on vaccines

Who Is Eligible For VFC?

- Children birth through 18 years of age who meet one of the following:
 - Medicaid eligible
 - Uninsured
 - American Indian/Alaska Native
 - Underinsured (only eligible for VFC Vaccine through Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs)
 - ❖ “Underinsured” – child has health insurance, but: Insurance doesn’t cover vaccines, covers only select vaccines, or has a fixed dollar amount for vaccines

CDC Responsibilities

- Establishes vaccine contracts for the purchase of vaccines by states
- Establishes programmatic guidelines for implementation of the VFC program
- Establishes a national vaccine distribution system
- Determines priority groups for receipt of vaccines if a particular vaccine is in short supply

States Responsibilities

- Enroll providers
- Assure adequate supplies of all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are available
- Ensure provider vaccine order parameters are established and followed
- Provide technical assistance to providers

States Responsibilities (cont.)

Quality assurance – conduct VFC/AFIX site visits to VFC enrolled providers to assess:

- Storage and Handling
- Vaccine Information Statement Forms
- Vaccine Administration
- Chart Documentation
- Eligibility Screening
- Immunization Rates
- Administration Fees
- Training
- Emergency Plan
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Schedules

Provider Responsibilities

- Determine patient eligibility at each visit
- **Do not** charge for the cost of VFC vaccine
- Complete re-enrollment contract to VFC program annually
- Utilize approved refrigeration equipment
- Use certified calibrated thermometer for every refrigeration unit containing vaccine
- Submit monthly temperature logs and accountability reports
- Maintain VFC information for a period of 3 years

Vaccine Ordering

Vaccine ordering involves more than just writing numbers on the vaccine order form. It starts by.....

- Using real data to complete the provider profile to determine the number of VFC and non-VFC children a provider will serve during the year
 - Types of data used to determine profile -Medicaid billing, provider encounter forms, and VFC tally sheets
- Before completing the VFC order form review
 - Previous Vaccine Tally Sheets and Vaccine Accountability Form
 - Review doses administered AND the inventory on hand to determine the number of doses needed
- Provider should order approximately a 6 week supply of vaccine

Vaccine Distribution

- McKesson Specialty Distribution is the distributor utilized by all VFC Grantees
- Provider orders are processed by CDC daily
- Deliveries from McKesson are usually made on **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** and occasionally on **Friday**
 - ◆ The distributor is allowed 15 working days for delivery of product

Shipments Received by Providers

- Check vaccine shipment upon receipt for accuracy
- Any discrepancies must be reported to the VFC program within 2 hours of vaccine delivery
 - ❖ Temperatures out of range
 - ❖ Incorrect vaccines received
- Store vaccine at the appropriate temperature upon receipt
- Inappropriate storage or lack of action upon delivery resulting in waste is considered negligence and replacement of vaccine by the provider is required
- Keep vaccine invoices/shipping logs for 3 years

Immunization Rates

- Missouri's Goal – 90% of children appropriately immunized by 24 months of age
- What is our status – LAST. The 2009 National Immunization Survey lists Missouri's rate at 50.1% for the 4-3-1-3-3-1 Series (4-Dtap, 3-IPV, 1-MMR, 3-Hib, 3-HepB, 1-Varicella and 4-PCV) for children 19 - 35 months of age
- Is the 90% goal unreasonable?
- Will it be difficult to reach?
- What is our focus?
 - Education, Inter-agency Partnerships, Research and Idea Sharing, Shots for Tots campaign, Increase VFC provider base.....

Questions/Comments

For more information about the VFC program, call:

VFC Program Staff at: (800) 219-3224

Or go to:

<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/vfc-parentsguardians.php>

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/