

Vaccine Transport

CDC discourages regular transport of vaccines. On occasion a provider may experience a

situation where they have stock with a short timeline before expiration. Short-dated vaccine can be transferred to other VFC providers only under the following conditions:

- With the approval and under the direct guidance of the awardee immunization program, and
- If the cold chain can be maintained
- Documentation exists that the vaccine was properly stored and monitored for temperature excursions prior to transfer

Transport Guidance for Refrigerated Vaccine

CDC recommends using a portable vaccine refrigerator or qualified pack-outs for transporting vaccine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-e-handling-toolkit.pdf>. If you cannot comply with CDC's

guidance for transporting vaccine use the emergency transport guidance located here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/downloads/emergency-transport.pdf>

CDC Policy for Federally Purchased Vaccine

To ensure federally purchased vaccine is used for those who are least able to pay for them, vaccines purchased with federal funds are not intended for insured individuals. Costs of vaccine for insured individuals should be redirected to third party payers. Federally purchased vaccines are funded with VFC and Section 317 funds. VFC funded vaccine must be used only for VFC eligible children. Section 317 funded vaccine is used to support adult programs for public providers serving uninsured and underinsured adults.

Eligibility: Clarification for Underinsured

Eligibility for the VFC Program as "underinsured" is rare. Unless insurance coverage for vaccines is verified by the provider prior to administration of vaccine, for the purposes of the VFC Program, these children are considered insured and are not eligible to receive vaccines at that immunization encounter. Note: Children whose health insurance covers the cost of vaccinations are not eligible for federally purchased vaccines, even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible has not been met. A child verified as underinsured is VFC eligible ONLY at a Federally Qualified Health Center/Rural Health Center (FQHC/RHC). Private providers cannot use VFC vaccine on underinsured children. Health Departments provide immunizations to underinsured and insured clients using vaccine purchased with other funding (not VFC funded vaccine).

Change to VFC Eligibility Guidance

Situations occur where children may have private health insurance AND Medicaid as secondary insurance. In the past, providers were advised to always use VFC vaccine, but sometimes billing the insurance can be more cost effective for the family, creating a situation where it benefits the family for Medicaid to be the payer of last resort rather than first. If you have a client who is insured and is VFC eligible, please contact the Order Center so that guidance can be provided as to the options available for the family.

Medicaid MCO and FAMIS Cards

A child with Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) is insured, and is not eligible for VFC funded vaccine. The site below shows examples of the Medicaid/Medicaid MCO cards and the FAMIS cards. Pay close attention to the new Aetna Better Health cards as the MCO and FAMIS cards are very similar.

https://www.coverva.org/main_plans.cfm

Immunization Schedules

In October 2016, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to approve the Recommended Immunization Schedules for Children and Adults. Changes in the 2017 immunization schedules can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

2017 Pink Book Supplement

A 2017 Supplement to the 13th Edition of the Pink Book is now available. The supplement reflects the latest ACIP recommendations including supplementary immunization information on human papillomavirus vaccine, meningococcal vaccines, and pneumococcal vaccines.

To view the supplement, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/supplement.html>

2017-18 Flu Pre-Book

If you have not already done so, please reserve Influenza vaccine for next year's flu season.

Gold Star Awards (Dec/Jan)

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Childrens Clinic, Ltd., Newport News
Crestwood Pediatric Assoc., Gainesville & Manassas
Grace Point Pediatrics, Winchester
Monument Avenue Pediatrics, Richmond
The Pediatric Group, Fairfax
Wythe Bland Pediatrics, Wytheville



Process Improvement

Capital Area Pediatrics, Ashburn
Whole Child Pediatrics, Ashburn
These sites are recognized for making beneficial changes in their immunization delivery services. Implementing the use of stand-alone pharmaceutical grade units for vaccine storage, equipped with Digital Data Loggers, has provided assurance that vaccines are stored at temperatures consistently within the required range.