



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF CHICAGO

VFC Eligibility Policy

Providers must screen for and document VFC eligibility with every immunization visit. Providers must check the eligibility status in the MEDI system (or an equivalent system receiving HFS 270/271 electronic transaction data). To be eligible to receive VFC vaccine, children (regardless of their state of residency) must be younger than 19 years of age and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Medicaid: a child who is eligible for and/or enrolled in Medicaid or a Managed Care Medicaid Program;
- Uninsured: a child who has no health insurance coverage;
- American Indian or Alaskan Native (AI/AN): as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 USC 1603);
- Underinsured: a child who has health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines, or a child whose health insurance does not cover all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend vaccines. The child would be eligible to receive those vaccines not covered by insurance. See the notice below for further information concerning under-insured status.

CHIP Patients

Children who are recipients of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (also known as CHIP, Title XXI, State Funded, All Kids) are eligible to receive CHIP-assigned vaccine. Please refer to the Provider Notice provided by the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (HFS):

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/notices/Pages/prn190812a.aspx>

Underinsured Patients

Underinsured children are only eligible to receive VFC vaccines through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The Affordable Care Act has limited the number of plans that do not cover immunizations, however a few still exist.

Other exceptional situations of VFC eligibility:

- Any child with Medicaid as a secondary insurance, regardless of the primary insurance is VFC-eligible. If a provider uses VFC-supplied vaccines for the child with this type of coverage, the provider cannot bill the primary insurance for either or both the cost of the vaccine and/or the administration fee.
- A child/adolescent seeking family planning services or STI treatment at a family planning clinic or STI clinic can seek and receive immunization services. The child/adolescent is eligible for VFC vaccine only when the patient cannot access insurance information or doesn't know his/her insurance status. In this instance the patient is considered uninsured. This situation is specific to the setting of a family planning clinic or STI clinic, and does not apply to a patient seeking these same services at a school based clinic or facility whose main services are primary or acute care.
- A child/adolescent who is incarcerated is considered VFC eligible. When a child cannot access health care through a health insurance plan because of incarceration the child is considered uninsured.