

VFC ELIGIBILITY – WHO CAN RECEIVE VFC VACCINES?

Children through 18 years of age (under 19) who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive VFC vaccine:

- Medicaid – eligible or Medicaid enrolled
- Uninsured
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Underinsured (has insurance, but the insurance does not include vaccines or does not cover all ACIP recommended vaccines) – Consider the child underinsured if they have subsequent visits while still on the same policy to avoid the borrowing and replacing of vaccines.

MI-Child has merged with Medicaid and those children are now eligible for VFC vaccine under the Medicaid eligibility code.

Occasionally, children may be VFC-eligible for more than one eligibility category. A provider must select and document the eligibility category that will require the least amount of out of pocket expense to the parent/guardian for the child to receive necessary immunizations. When vaccinating a child who presents with dual insurance coverage – both Medicaid and private insurance – you must choose to either vaccinate with VFC vaccine, bill Medicaid for the administration fee and record the child as Medicaid in MCIR OR use private stock vaccine, bill the private insurance company for the vaccine and the administration fee and record child as fully insured in MCIR. You cannot use VFC vaccine and bill the private insurance company for the administration fee. It's one or the other – not a combination of both.

Children who have Medicaid spend-down are considered uninsured. Once the spend - down amount has been met, and they are eligible for Medicaid, the eligibility code would change to Medicaid.

Children whose health insurance covers the cost of the vaccinations are not eligible for VFC vaccines. This applies even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration fee would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible has not been met. A child is considered to be insured if all or a part of the vaccine is covered by insurance. Unfortunately, co-pays and deductibles (even very large ones) or other charges associated with the cost of a vaccine are considered to be routine costs of health care and the child would not qualify to receive VFC vaccine. A child with insurance that has a cap on preventive care is considered to be fully insured until the insurance cap is fulfilled. Once the insurance cap has been met, the child is then considered underinsured and eligible for VFC vaccine because the insurance will no longer cover vaccines.

VFC eligibility must be reviewed and documented at every immunization visit. In Michigan, the maximum fee for administration of VFC vaccine is \$23.03 per vaccine. Providers using VFC vaccines **cannot** deny administration of these vaccines due to the inability of a child's parent or guardian to pay the administration fee. Providers may bill the parent, but cannot send an unpaid bill to a collection agency.