

TO: Physicians, Independent Clinics, and
Hospitals - Chief Executive Officer

ROUTE TO: Hospital Billing, Accounting, and Finance Offices

SUBJECT: Vaccines for Children Program

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To inform pediatric preventive health service providers of the
status of the Vaccination for Children (VFC) program in New Jersey.

BACKGROUND: The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a new federally-funded
program is to help raise childhood immunization levels in the United States by
supplying federally purchased vaccines, at no cost, to public and private
health care providers who enroll as VFC providers and who agree to immunize
eligible children in their practices or clinics. and

The categories of children eligible for the VFC vaccines are as follows:

1. Medicaid eligible children;
2. Uninsured children;
3. Native American and Native Alaskan children; and
4. Underinsured children. (Those underinsured children whose health insurance does not cover immunizations, may receive federally-purchased vaccines only through Federally Qualified Health Centers.)

The implementation of the VFC plan called for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to contract with the federal General Services Administration (GSA) to operate a national distribution system, including a national warehouse, located in Burlington, New Jersey.

However, as you may be aware, the federal government recently decided against the use of a national distribution center and therefore, New Jersey must develop its own storage and distribution system. This, in turn, will necessitate a delay in implementation of the VFC program in New Jersey for certain providers.

ACTION: In order to avoid a lapse in the existing children's immunization existing Medicaid regulations. All pediatric preventive health providers will be notified of future developments and invited to enroll as VFC providers.

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Those providers who currently receive free vaccine from the New Jersey Department of Health will be contacted directly by the Department of Health Immunization Program concerning immediate enrollment.

For further information or questions concerning the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program, please contact either Danuta Buzdygan, M.D., Pediatric Consultant, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, at (609) 588-2718, or contact the New Jersey Department of Health, Immunization Program, at (609) 588-7512.

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