



## Utah Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Eligibility and Billing Scenarios

Scenarios are provided to help you determine if a patient is eligible for publicly funded vaccine through the Utah VFC Program at the time of service. In order for children to receive vaccines through the VFC program, eligibility screening and documentation must take place at each immunization visit prior to immunization.

**Scenario 1:** *Patient presents age 19 years or older.*

Patients age 19 years and over are not eligible for publicly funded vaccine regardless of insurance status. Eligibility ends for all children as of their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Scenario 2:** *Patient presents with private health insurance which covers vaccines.*

Patients whose health insurance plan includes vaccines as a covered medical service are considered insured. They are not eligible for publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 3:** *Patient presents with Medicaid.*

Patients who meet the age requirement and are enrolled in Medicaid as their primary insurance at the time of service are eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 4:** *Patient presents with no health insurance coverage.*

Patients who meet the age requirement and do not have insurance coverage at the time of service are eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 5:** *Patient is American Indian/Alaska Native.*

Patients who meet the age requirement and are American Indian/Alaska Native (as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) are eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 6:** *Patient presents with Utah Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).*

Patients who meet the age requirement and are enrolled in Utah CHIP at the time of services are eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine. Children who are enrolled in CHIP programs from states other than Utah are not eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 7:** *Patient presents with private health insurance which has a deductible or co-payment.*

Patients whose health insurance plan includes vaccines as a covered medical service, regardless of deductibles or co-payments, are considered insured. They are not eligible for publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 8:** *Patient presents with private health insurance which covers only selected vaccines.*

Patients who meet the age requirement and whose health insurance plan includes coverage for only selected Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines, or does not include coverage for vaccines are considered underinsured, for non-covered vaccines. It is rare for a child to meet the underinsured eligibility criteria, therefore, unless insurance coverage for vaccines is verified by the provider prior to administration of vaccine, for the purposes of VFC, these children are considered insured and are not eligible to receive VFC vaccine at that encounter. Children who meet the criteria for underinsured are eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine, but only in a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic (FQHC/RHC)\*.

**Scenario 9:** *Patient qualifies for more than one VFC eligibility category.*

For patients who qualify for more than one VFC eligibility category, a provider should select and document the eligibility category that will require the least amount of out-of-pocket expenses to the parent/guardian for the child to receive the immunizations. If both categories result in the same amount out-of-pocket, select the more permanent eligibility category.

**Scenario 10:** *Patient presents and has applied for Medicaid and/or Children's Health Insurance Program.*

Patients must meet at least one VFC eligibility criteria at the time of service in order to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 11:** *Patient cannot access health insurance due to incarceration.*

Patients who meet the age requirement and have lost insurance due to incarceration are considered uninsured and are eligible to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Scenario 12:** *Patient presents with insurance that covers vaccines and is American Indian/Alaska Native.*

American Indian/Alaska Native children who meet the age requirement are always eligible for VFC vaccine, however participation is not mandatory for an eligible child. For American Indian/Alaska Native children that have full immunization benefits through a primary private insurer or are on Medicaid, the decision to participate in the VFC program should be made based on what is most cost beneficial to the child and family.

**Scenario 13:** *Patient presents with Medicaid as secondary insurance.*

Patients who meet the age requirement and present with Medicaid as secondary are eligible for VFC vaccine as long as they are enrolled in Medicaid, however, participation is not mandatory for an eligible child.

**Scenario 14:** *Patient presents at a school-based clinic.*

Children who receive vaccines in a school-based clinic must not automatically be considered VFC-eligible. All children must be screened for VFC eligibility, and publicly funded vaccine must only be administered to children who are eligible for VFC vaccine.

**Scenario 15:** *Patient presents who has Medicaid from a bordering state.*

Children who have Medicaid from a bordering state are eligible for publicly funded vaccine. However, the provider must be a Medicaid-enrolled provider for the state where the Medicaid VFC-eligible child resides in order to receive reimbursement for the administration fee from the neighboring state's Medicaid program.

**Scenario 16:** *Patient presents who is part of a healthcare cost sharing program (through religious or other non-insurance group).*

Patients who are enrolled in a healthcare cost sharing plan (through a religious or other private, non-insurance group) are eligible for VFC if they do not have any other form of insurance. Providers should classify the patient as uninsured and use VFC vaccine unless the patient provides another form of insurance, in which case, the patient is insured and not eligible for VFC vaccine.

***\*As of January 1, 2012, under-insured patients may only receive publicly funded vaccine in a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic (FQHC/RHC). Under-insured children cannot to be considered un-insured for the purpose of obtaining publicly funded vaccine. This is considered fraud and abuse of the Utah VFC Program.***

*All previous versions of this policy are null and void.*