

Questions Private Providers Ask about Vaccines for Children (VFC)



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING?

Your clinic will receive vaccines at no cost to immunize eligible children in your clinic. Your clinic will help Oregon ensure all children and adolescents have access to affordable vaccines in order to protect our communities.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A VFC PROVIDER?

As a VFC provider, you are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the VFC program. This includes accounting for every dose of vaccine you receive through the VFC program and making sure vaccine is not lost due to poor storage and handling. We will give you tools and support to do this. It is essential that a staff person at your clinic is assigned responsibility for managing immunizations within your clinic and that they are given time to do this work.

WHICH VACCINES DOES VFC OFFER?

Oregon's Immunization Program offers all vaccines routinely recommended by the ACIP.

HOW DO I KNOW IF A PATIENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR VFC VACCINE?

Simply ask if the patient is 18 years of age or younger AND

- Enrolled in Medicaid or the Oregon Health Plan, OR
- Uninsured, OR
- American Indian or Alaskan Native (regardless of insurance status)

If the answer is yes to any of these categories¹, the patient is eligible. You are not required to verify their answers, although you will need to document their eligibility in the medical record.

DO I HAVE TO ACCEPT ANYONE WHO WANTS VFC VACCINE?

No. Your clinic is agreeing to give VFC vaccine to eligible patients already in your practice. Accepting additional patients is encouraged, but ultimately your clinic's decision.

CAN I CHARGE A FEE TO VFC PATIENTS?

You may charge an administration fee, but must not charge for the vaccine itself. The administration fee can be up to **\$21.96 per injection**, which may be billed to DMAP or the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) for your Medicaid patients, or directly to the patient for non-Medicaid clients. VFC vaccine CANNOT be denied to eligible patients due to their inability to pay the administration fee.

¹ Underinsured patients are eligible for VFC vaccine if they are served at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC). Underinsured patients include 0 through 18 year olds who have private health insurance, but coverage does not include recommended vaccines or vaccine coverage caps at a certain dollar amount or age of patient.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VFC AND ALERT IIS?

ALERT IIS is a computerized statewide Immunization Information System (IIS), or registry. ALERT IIS collects immunization information from both the public and private health care sectors and combines it into one complete record for individuals in Oregon. ALERT IIS captures required vaccine eligibility data.

VFC is the program that provides vaccines at no cost to children with no insurance, Medicaid, or who are Native Alaskan or American Indian. VFC providers are required to use ALERT IIS.

WHAT TRAININGS DO I NEED TO TAKE?

Your staff must complete required VFC and ALERT IIS trainings during the enrollment process. All trainings are offered online. Your Health Educator will help you decide who will need to take the trainings and where to access them. We are here to assure your success!

WILL I NEED A NEW REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER OR TEMPERATURE MONITORING EQUIPMENT?

Not if you already have equipment that meets program requirements. Dorm-style refrigerators with an inner freezer compartment are NOT acceptable for storing refrigerated or frozen vaccines. If you need to buy a new refrigerator or freezer, or temperature monitoring equipment, the OIP can provide you with information on what to look for and some suggestions of where to go.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Once we receive your completed paperwork, your Health Educator will contact you to set up an enrollment visit. This visit will serve as a training to ensure that your clinic is prepared to meet all VFC participation requirements. Everything you need to get started will be provided at this visit.

Questions? Please call 971-673-0300 to reach a Health Educator OR visit our website at www.healthoregon.org/vfc

If you need this material in an alternate format, please call 971-673-0300