

## **Immunization Program VFC/VFA Overview**

Vermont is a universal state, where the state Immunization Program purchases vaccines from the CDC federal contract at no cost to providers, for use in all children and adults. In order to receive vaccines a provider practice must enroll in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and/or Vaccines for Adult (VFA) programs. Vaccine purchases are funded through the federal Vaccines for Children program, fees assessed on health insurers who cover Vermont lives and 317 immunization program federal funding (for uninsured only).

### **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program**

Congress created the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program in 1993. The goal of the VFC Program is to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases by removing or reducing cost barriers. The VFC program is funded by federal entitlement money guaranteed to each state to buy vaccine for children who are Medicaid eligible, uninsured, underinsured (defined in this case as a health insurance policy that will not cover vaccination services), Alaskan native or native American.

The Vermont Department of Health ensures that private providers and district health departments are able to receive vaccine at no cost and abide by the rules and regulations of the VFC program.

### **To participate in the VFC program, providers must agree to:**

- Screen patients for VFC eligibility at each visit.
- Order vaccines on-line through a CDC approved Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS).
- Permit representatives of VDH Immunization Program access to provider practices and patient immunization records during annual site visits.
- Administer vaccines according to the CDC Recommended Immunization Schedule, unless medically contraindicated.
- Provide Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) in accordance with the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act and document the VIS was given in the immunization record.
- Do not charge for any vaccine provided through the VFC/VFA program.
- Do not impose an administration charge higher than the maximum fee established by the Center for Medicaid Services for Vermont (\$21.22) for non- Medicaid, VFC eligible children.
- Report vaccine usage, wastage and inventory to VDH Immunization Program.
- Adhere to all vaccine storage and handling requirements
- Maintain immunization records for a period of at least three years.



## **Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program**

In 2007, the Vermont Department of Health initiated a program to provide adult (age 19 and older) vaccines at no cost to provider practices. This program, known as Vaccines for Adults (VFA) is modeled after the VFC program. All primary care and OB/GYN providers may enroll.

### **To participate in the VFA program, providers must agree to:**

- Serve adults 19-64 years
- Order vaccines on-line through a CDC approved Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS).
- Permit representatives of VDH Immunization Program access to provider practices and patient immunization records during annual site visits.
- Administer vaccines according to the CDC Recommended Immunization Schedule, unless medically contraindicated.
- Provide Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and document the VIS was given in the immunization record.
- Report vaccine usage, wastage and inventory to VDH Immunization Program.
- Adhere to all vaccine storage and handling requirements
- Do not charge for any vaccine provided through the VFA program

If you would like to enroll your practice in the VFC and/or VFA program, please contact the Immunization Program by e-mail: [ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov) or call 1-800-640-4374.

