



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health

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March 18, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers  
**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head *BRW*  
Immunization Branch  
**SUBJECT:** Important Information Regarding 2013-2014 Influenza Vaccine Availability

The purpose of this memo is to give providers important information regarding the availability of flu vaccine for the 2013-2014 flu season. In the past, the NCIP has been able to expand the criteria and offer providers flu vaccine which may be administered to patients regardless of their insurance status. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has informed us that this will not be the case for the 2013-2014 flu season. That is, for the upcoming flu season, NCIP flu vaccine will only be available to children qualifying for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

As a reminder, VFC eligible children are those who are up to 19 years of age, and who are at least one of the following:

- Medicaid eligible
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Uninsured
- Underinsured\*

\*Note that underinsured patients may only be served by pre-approved deputized immunization providers.

In addition to VFC children, the only other group who may be administered NCIP vaccine during the 2013-2014 flu season are uninsured pregnant women who are being served at local health departments.

Since many providers plan ahead for the flu season, we wanted to alert providers of this change so that you could plan accordingly. Flu vaccines will need to be purchased for the insured patients providers intend to vaccinate throughout the flu season.

Questions should be sent to the NCIP Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Cc:	SMT Maclyn Powell Peter Graber	Field Staff Gregg Griggs Ann Nichols	Central Office Staff Taryn Edwards	Vaccine Manufacturers Terri Pennington	Steve Shore Joy Reed
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