

**Subject: Charging for Vaccines Distributed by the North Carolina Immunization Program**

**Effective: August, 2008**

**Updated: September, 2011**

**Policy:**

The North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) distributes vaccines at no charge to authorized immunization providers for administration to patients. Since most vaccines provided through the NCIP are only available to children who qualify for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, insured children are by and large no longer eligible to receive NCIP vaccines.

**Charging patients and/or insurance companies for state-supplied vaccine products**

Immunization providers (private or public) may not charge either the patient (i.e., the individual) or a third party payer (Medicaid, Medicare, or other insurance provider) for state-supplied vaccine products.

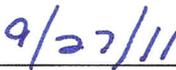
**Private Providers Charging Administration Fees**

Unless the patient/parent states an inability to pay, providers may charge the patient/parent/guardian a fee for administering state-supplied vaccine. The maximum which may be charged the patient/family is based on the federal regional rate, \$13.71 (per vaccine). Providers may set any rate that does not exceed this rate. When the patient/parent states an inability to pay, the provider must administer VFC vaccine, and waive the administration fee. The provider may not charge the patient an office fee in addition to an administration fee for an immunization-only visit in which VFC vaccines are administered.

**Local Health Department (LHD) Providers Charging Administration Fees**

In 2009, the NC Legislature amended general statute GS 130-153 (a) to allow LHDs to charge the family an administration fee for VFC vaccines under certain conditions. According to the statute, LHDs shall administer required and state-supplied immunizations at no cost to patients who are uninsured or underinsured and have family incomes below two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level. As always, if the patient/parent states an inability to pay the administration fee, the fee must be waived, and VFC vaccine administered. In order for LHDs to charge patients, they must be uninsured or underinsured, and the family income must be above the 200% of the federal poverty level. The maximum fee is based on the CMS rate of \$13.71 (per vaccine). For more details, see the October 30, 2009 memo at: [www.immunize.nc.gov](http://www.immunize.nc.gov)

  
Approved by

  
Date