

**Subject:** Requirement for Providers to Carry Recommended Vaccines Based on Population Served

**Effective:** April 1, 2011

**Authority:** Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) statute, at section 1928(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396s(c)(2)(B)(i)).\*

**Policy:** Providers participating in the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) must carry all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the VFC-eligible population they serve and vaccinate all patients in accordance with those recommendations unless a valid contraindication exists or a patient (or guardian) expressly refuses vaccination. Providers are asked annually at the time of contract renewal to verify/edit their “enrollment data” or population of patients served in their practices. Any provider whose vaccine orders do not match this population estimate (enrollment data) will be required to submit a new population estimate or adjust their vaccine inventory in order to remain in the program.

Providers are not required to carry VFC vaccines which are recommended for groups outside the population they serve. For example, a provider serving only an adolescent population would not be required to carry vaccines recommended for infants and toddlers, such as rotavirus or PCV13.

The following provider types are considered “specialty providers” by the NCIP and may choose to carry only specific VFC vaccines based on the scope of their medical practice regardless of their patient population:

Obstetricians/Gynecologists

Residential facilities

Schools

Correctional facilities

Hospitals

Pharmacies

Non-Local Health Department STD clinics

Other providers at the discretion of the NCIP

\*The VFC statute, at section 1928(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396s(c)(2)(B)(i)), states within the provider agreement section that the provider agrees as follows:

“Subject to clause (ii) the provider will comply with the schedule, regarding the appropriate periodicity, dosage, and contraindications applicable to pediatric vaccines, that is established and periodically reviewed and, as appropriate, revised by the...[ACIP], except in such cases as, in the provider’s medical judgment subject to accepted medical practice, such compliance is medically inappropriate.” CDC interprets this provision to mean a medical judgment based on the situation of an individual VFC patient. Only specialty providers may choose, at the discretion of the grantee, to offer only specific VFC vaccines and their choice is based on the scope of their medical practices. Other VFC providers must offer the full list of VFC vaccines according to the schedule determined by the ACIP in its VFC resolutions, except when in the provider’s medical judgment, subject to accepted medical practice, the circumstances of an individual VFC patient makes such vaccination medically inappropriate.

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Approved by

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Date

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