



## Chicago Department of Public Health – Chicago VFC Program

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### **URGENT** VFC News Bulletin – September 30, 2016 PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

#### **CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (CHIP) UPDATE**

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Effective **October 1, 2016**, children who have the state's Title XXI [21] and State-Funded All Kids eligibility **cannot receive vaccines through the federal VFC program.**

The Illinois Department of Public Health has informed Illinois VFC Providers in a memo dated September 30, 2016, that they plan to utilize a limited supply of federal (317) funds to purchase vaccines during an eight-week transition period to give providers more time to accommodate the program change.

For Chicago VFC Providers, this opportunity is available but limited by the fact that the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) uses these discretionary (317) funds to provide vaccine to Chicago's uninsured adult population.

Despite these limitations, the Chicago Department of Public Health plans to support Chicago VFC Providers on a case-by-case basis to the best of our ability through a 6 week transitional period ending **November 12, 2016.**

**If you are a currently enrolled Chicago VFC provider who has NOT yet purchased private stock vaccine to provide to CHIP insured children, please fill out and return the attached *CHIP Provider Readiness Report* as soon as possible and we will contact each provider individually to discuss options for their patients over the next 6 weeks.**

If you have already purchased private stock vaccine to be used for CHIP children, please follow procedures implemented by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) for reimbursement.

**Pediatric Vaccine Reimbursement Rates** have just been posted on the HFS Non-Institutional Provider page. (<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/NonInstitutional/Pages/default.aspx>)

No matter what the individual transition plan is for your facility, please ensure you are working to complete the following steps:

- Register for the MEDI system right away to be able to screen your patients for eligibility at every encounter. It may take several days to get permission to assign roles to your staff within the MEDI system.
- Ensure you have a mechanism in place to separate your private vaccine stock from your VFC vaccine stock.
- Ensure your electronic medical record/electronic health records capture CHIP eligibility separately from VFC eligibility.
- Continue to assess your private vaccine inventory and purchase appropriate stock to cover CHIP patients.

If you are a provider system that spans both Chicago and Illinois VFC Programs, remember that vaccine cannot be transferred from Illinois to Chicago Providers. Inappropriate vaccine transfers can be detected through vaccine ordering and use data.

