

## Glossary of Important VFC Terms

### **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**

The ACIP consists of 15 experts in fields associated with immunization who have been selected by the HHS Secretary to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and CDC on the control of vaccine-preventable diseases. The Committee develops written recommendations for the routine administration of vaccines to children and adults in the civilian population; recommendations include age for vaccine administration, number of doses and dosing interval, and precautions and contraindications. The ACIP is the only entity in the federal government that makes such recommendations. VFC resolutions passed by the ACIP form the basis for VFC program policies on vaccine availability and usage. They may not necessarily match the general usage recommendations of the ACIP, but rather represent the rules that providers must follow for administering each specific vaccine under the VFC program.

### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

Agency that provides oversight of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Funding for VFC program is allocated through this agency.

### **CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)**

Authorized under Title XXI of the Social Security Act, jointly financed by the Federal and State governments and administered by the States. The program provides insurance to children in families with incomes that are above Medicaid eligibility but do not have access to private insurance. Within broad Federal guidelines, each State determines the design of its program, eligibility groups, benefit packages, payment levels for coverage, and administrative and operating procedures. States can implement CHIP in one of three methods.

**Medicaid Expansion** - A state increases the income limits so more children are eligible for Medicaid. These children (since they are enrolled in Medicaid) are VFC-eligible.

**Separate CHIP** - A state develops a new health insurance plan/program that may have different rules and benefits than the state Medicaid plan. Children enrolled in a separate CHIP program are NOT considered VFC-eligible because they are insured by this new plan or program.

**Combination Plan** - A state implements CHIP through a Medicaid expansion, where the state increases the income limits so more children are eligible for Medicaid. These children (since they are enrolled in Medicaid) are VFC-eligible. The state also develops a separate CHIP plan, which is a new health insurance plan/program that may have different rules and benefits than the state Medicaid

Publication Date: January 2011

Revision Date: None

plan. Children enrolled in a separate CHIP program are NOT considered VFC-eligible because they are insured by this new plan or program.

### **Comprehensive Clinic Assessment Software Application (CoCASA)**

A tool for assessing immunization coverage levels, VFC/AFIX activities and provider compliance with high-priority VFC compliance questions within a clinic, private practice, or any other setting where immunizations are provided. This software has data entry and import capabilities and can generate a number of reports, two of which can be used to complete the VFC Management Survey.

### **Delegated Authority**

A formal agreement, generally through a Memorandum of Understanding, whereby Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) delegate their VFC authority for vaccinating underinsured children to other VFC-enrolled providers, usually public health department clinics, who then vaccinate underinsured children as agents of the FQHC/RHC.

### **Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG)**

Office mandated to protect the integrity of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs and their beneficiaries. It is generally responsible for identifying, communicating and correcting activities of waste, fraud or abuse within HHS programs.

### **Family Planning Clinic**

Clinic or provider whose main purpose is to prescribe contraceptives. This does not include school-based clinics or any VFC-enrolled provider whose main services are primary or acute care services.

### **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)**

Health center that is designated by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) of the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) to provide health care to a medically underserved population. FQHCs include community and migrant health centers, special health facilities such as those for the homeless and persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) that receive grants under the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as well as "look-alikes," which meet the qualifications but do not actually receive grant funds. They also include health centers within public housing and Indian Health Service centers.

### **Federal Register**

The Federal Register is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. On October 3, 1994, the Federal Register published the notice that set forth the interim maximum amounts a participating provider may charge for administering a VFC vaccine to a VFC-eligible child. The interim amounts are still in place today.

Publication Date: January 2011

Revision Date: None

### **Federally Vaccine-eligible Child**

*Also known as VFC-eligible Child*

Child who is eligible to receive VFC vaccine.

### **Fraud**

An intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with the knowledge that the deception could result in some unauthorized benefit to himself or some other person. It includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

### **Indian (American Indian or Alaska Native)**

As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603):

“Indians” or “Indian”, unless otherwise designated, means any person who is a member of an Indian tribe, as defined in subsection (d) of this section, except that, for the purpose of sections 1612 and 1613 of this title, such terms shall mean any individual who (1), irrespective of whether he or she lives on or near a reservation, is a member of a tribe, band, or other organized group of Indians, including those tribes, bands, or groups terminated since 1940 and those recognized now or in the future by the State in which they reside, or who is a descendant, in the first or second degree, of any such member, or (2) is an Eskimo or Aleut or other Alaska Native, or (3) is considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose, or (4) is determined to be an Indian under regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

**(d) “Indian tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or group or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.**

### **Insurance**

For the purpose of the VFC program, “insurance” is defined as a plan that is:

- Regulated by a State’s Insurance Commissioner and/or
- Subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA is a federal law that sets minimum standards for most voluntarily established pension and health plans in private industry to provide protection for individuals in these plans.

### **Maximum Regional Charge**

The amount that a VFC-enrolled provider can charge a non-Medicaid VFC-eligible child for each vaccine administered (also known as the administration fee or “admin fee”). State Medicaid agencies have the authority to reimburse at a lower level. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has the responsibility of setting and adjusting the maximum regional charges. *See Federal Register.*

Publication Date: January 2011

Revision Date: None

### **Medicaid**

Federal and state partnership that creates a medical assistance plan for poor and disabled Americans. It is sometimes called Title XIX because it was authorized under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. VFC is part of the larger Medicaid program but has different eligibility criteria than the Medicaid assistance plan for both providers and participants.

### **Medicaid-eligible Child**

A child who is eligible for the Medicaid Program. For the purposes of the VFC program, the terms “Medicaid-eligible” and “Medicaid-enrolled” are equivalent and refer to children who have health insurance coverage by a state Medicaid program.

### **Medicaid Fraud and Control Unit (MFCU)**

Unit responsible for investigating and prosecuting (or referring for prosecution) violations of all applicable state laws pertaining to fraud in the administration of the Medicaid program, including the VFC program. In general MFCUs are located in the Office of the State Attorney General.

### **Office of Management & Budget (OMB)**

Office that assists the President in overseeing the preparation of the federal budget and supervising its administration in Executive Branch agencies. OMB evaluates the effectiveness of agency programs, policies, and procedures.

### **Office of the State Attorney General (OAG)**

Office that advises and represents state agencies that protect the rights of state consumers and may also represent other relevant state agencies. The Medicaid Fraud and Control Unit (MFCU) is located within this office in most states. *See Medicaid Fraud and Control Unit.*

### **Population Estimate Survey (PES)**

Survey completed by grantees annually to determine the number of children in their jurisdictions eligible for VFC vaccine. CDC uses the survey results to formulate its request for VFC vaccine funding from OMB.

### **Rural Health Clinic (RHC)**

An RHC is a clinic located in a Health Professional Shortage Area, a Medically Underserved Area, or a Governor-Designated Shortage Area. RHCs are required to be staffed by physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or certified nurse midwives at least half of the time that the clinic is open.

### **Section 317 Funds**

Discretionary federal grant funds to 64 state and local grantees provided through an annual federal appropriation. Section 317 funds provide a safety net to provide vaccines to underinsured children and adolescents not served by the VFC

program, and, as funding permits, provides vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults. Grantees prioritize their Section 317 funds to meet the needs of their priority populations using public or private vaccination settings. Under the Section 317 program, states and grantees have broad discretion as to which ages, life stages, high-risk groups, or diseases will be targeted. Although the VFC program is the primary source of federal vaccine purchase funding for pediatric and adolescent vaccines, the vast majority of operations support for state immunization programs comes from the Section 317 immunization grant program

### State Funds

State-contributed funds used to purchase vaccine for children who are not VFC-eligible or support program operations.

### State Vaccine-eligible Child

Child who is eligible to receive vaccine that was purchased with 317/state funds, usually off the federal CDC contract.

### Underinsured Child

A child who has insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured. Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic.

### Uninsured Child

A child who has no health insurance coverage.

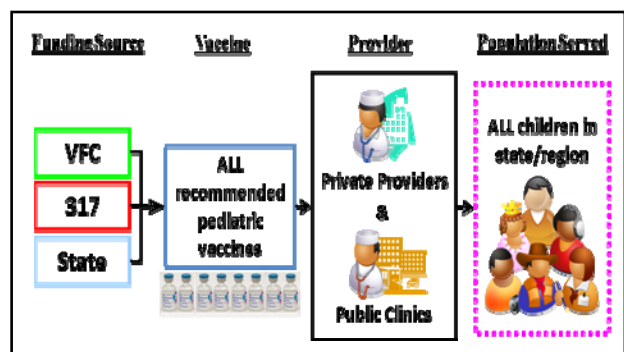
### Vaccine Purchase Policy

*Also known as Vaccine Supply Policy*

Policy that determines what vaccines a grantee will purchase, what funding sources will be used and what populations will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

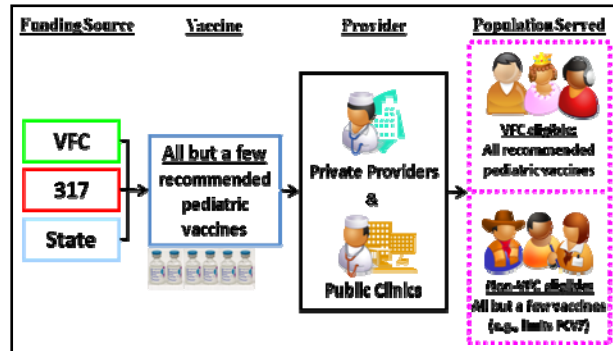
### Universal

Through a combination of VFC, 317 and state funding, the immunization program supplies **all** ACIP-recommended pediatric vaccines to all public and private VFC-enrolled providers to vaccinate all children in the grantee jurisdiction.



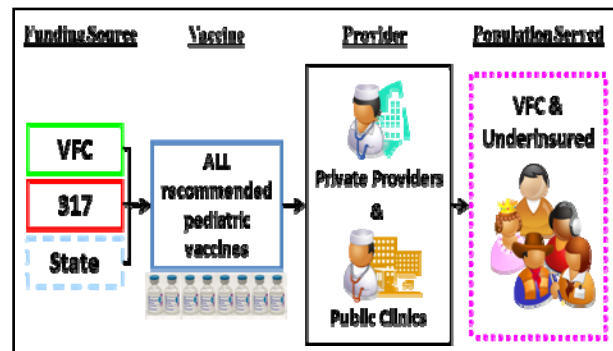
### Universal Select

Through a combination of VFC, 317 and state funding, the immunization program supplies all but a few ACIP-recommended pediatric vaccines to **all** public and private VFC-enrolled providers to vaccinate all children in the project area.



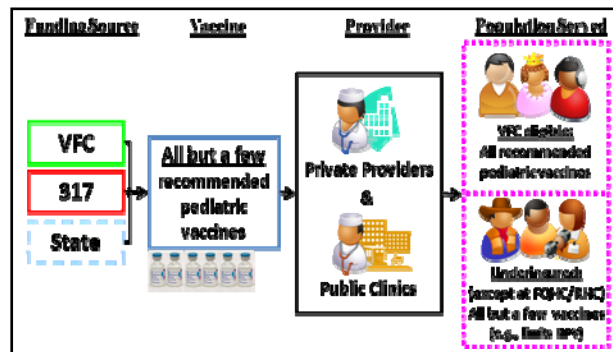
### VFC and Underinsured

Through a combination of VFC, 317 and state funds (if applicable), the immunization program supplies **all** routinely recommended pediatric vaccines to all public and private VFC-enrolled providers to vaccinate **only** VFC and underinsured children. (Policy applies to both public and private providers.)



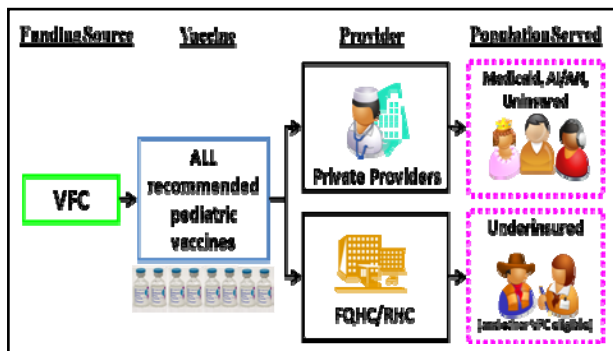
### VFC and Underinsured Select

Through a combination of VFC, 317 and state funds (if applicable), the immunization program supplies all but a few routinely recommended pediatric vaccines to **all** public and private VFC-enrolled providers to vaccinate **only** VFC and underinsured children. The program limits the supply of certain vaccines such as PCV7 or MCV4 to VFC-eligible children **only** in **both** public and private settings.



### VFC-only Supply

Through the use of VFC funds, the immunization program supplies all routinely recommended pediatric vaccines to private VFC-enrolled providers to vaccinate only VFC-eligible children. VFC-funded vaccine is supplied to private providers. Private providers do not receive 317 or state funded vaccine for underinsured



Publication Date: January 2011

Revision Date: None

children. However, the underinsured may be served via VFC, 317, and/or state/local funds in public clinics.

**Other**

Any purchase policy not described above, such as the combination of two or more of the above policies.

**Universal-select Supply Policy**

*Please see Vaccine Purchase Policy*

**Universal Supply Policy**

*Please see Vaccine Purchase Policy*

**Vaccine Funding Source**

How grantees use the three (VFC, 317, and state/local) funding sources to purchase vaccines.

- VFC funds: Federal entitlement funds used to purchase vaccines for administration to VFC-eligible children;
- 317 funds: Federal discretionary funds that can be used to purchase vaccine for non-VFC eligible populations;
- State funds: State contributed funds used to purchase vaccines for individuals who are not VFC-eligible.

**Vaccine Management Software Application (VACMAN)**

Database Management System (DBMS) used by immunization grantees to order, distribute, track and record information concerning publicly funded (VFC, 317 and state) vaccine purchases.

**Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS)**

Online provider ordering and approval system that will replace VACMAN beginning in 2011.

**VFC Abuse**

Provider practices that are inconsistent with sound fiscal, business, or medical practices, and that result in an unnecessary cost to the Medicaid program, and/or including actions that result in an unnecessary cost to the immunization program, a health insurance company, or a patient; or in reimbursement for services that are not medically necessary or that fail to meet professionally recognized standards for health care. It also includes recipient practices that result in unnecessary cost to the Medicaid program.

**VFC and Underinsured Select Supply Policy**

*Please see Vaccine Purchase Policy*

**VFC & Underinsured Supply Policy**

*Please see Vaccine Purchase Policy*

Publication Date: January 2011

Revision Date: None

### **VFC-eligible Child**

*Also known as Federally Vaccine-eligible Child*

Child who is 18 years of age or younger and meets one or more of the following categories:

- i. is an American Indian or Alaska Native; or
- ii. is eligible/enrolled in Medicaid; or
- iii. has no health insurance; or
- iv. is underinsured and receives vaccine through a FQHC or RHC

### **VFC Funds**

The Office of Management and Budget approves funding for the VFC program. Funding is through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to the CDC with awards made to 61 eligible grantees. Funding is used to purchase vaccines only for VFC-eligible children. Grantees receive VFC funding to support VFC-related activities, such as vaccine ordering and VFC/AFIX site visits.

### **VFC Only Supply Policy**

*Please see Vaccine Purchase Policy*

Publication Date: January 2011

Revision Date: None

This document can be found on the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/vfc-op-guide/vfc-op-guide-glossary.pdf>