



STARTING OCTOBER 2012, HOSPITALS, COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC PROVIDERS WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO IMMUNIZE PRIVATELY INSURED CHILDREN WITH FEDERAL VACCINE

Impact

Hospitals will no longer receive Hepatitis B birth dose and HBIG for privately insured children from the Arizona VFC Program. Hospitals will need to purchase private vaccine and bill for reimbursement from insurance companies when immunizing privately insured children. Hospitals are expected to continue providing the birth dose, although private providers should be prepared to provide the birth dose within 72 hours, if not already given in the hospital.

County Health Departments and all public VFC providers, such as several fire departments, school programs, and other public clinics may no longer use public vaccine for privately insured children. Privately insured children may fall through the cracks if turned away by private providers and sent to county health departments or other public providers only to be bounced back to private practice.

Insured children more than ever need to be given immunizations in their medical homes.

Resources

Pharmacies may vaccinate children 6 years of age and older with a doctor's prescription, except for influenza vaccine, which does not require a prescription. Pharmacies may bill insurance companies and/or charge the parent out-of-pocket.

Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) provide medical services, including immunizations. These health care centers will require children to enroll in their facility for comprehensive services.

Definition of Insured: Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

If you have any questions, please contact the Arizona Department of Health Services VFC Program at (602) 364-3642.