

BLASTFAX

Information from the Georgia Immunization Program Regarding VFC Eligibility Guidelines

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is intended to help raise childhood immunization levels in the United States, especially of infants and young children. This effort requires wide participation of private healthcare providers to reach children who might not otherwise receive vaccine because of financial barriers or who might receive vaccines late because they would be referred to another setting for free vaccines.

Vaccines made available to you from the Georgia Immunization Program are purchased using a combination of federal and state-level funding. This means that the VFC program in Georgia is able to provide vaccine FREE OF CHARGE to participating providers. The vaccine may then be made available to children up to their 19th birthday who are:

- Medicaid Enrolled
- PeachCare enrolled (see below)
- Uninsured (child has no health insurance coverage)
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Underinsured (child has health insurance but immunizations are not a covered benefit)

Examples include:

- Insurance which does not cover 2nd dose of Varicella may be given state-supplied stock for that dose only.
- Insurance that covers vaccines up to \$500/year. Child is eligible for state-supplied vaccine once the coverage level has been reached, for the remainder of that coverage year.
- A child who has insurance that covers vaccine but may have a high deductible is **not** VFC-eligible. The child is considered insured and must be immunized out of privately purchased vaccine stock.

Your practice may also see children enrolled in the PeachCare for Kids Program, which is administered by the Department of Community Health (DCH) or its contracted Care Management Organizations (CMOs). While a child enrolled in the PeachCare for Kids Program is fully insured, your office will use state-supplied vaccine for these children. All claims for vaccines administered to PeachCare for Kids participants will be filed and reimbursed through either DCH or the CMOs.

The VFC Program allows providers to immunize eligible children for a nominal administration fee.

Administration fees may be charged up to \$14.81 per injection. As part of the Provider Agreement, each practice agrees not to deny a VFC-eligible child for immunizations based on the client's inability to pay the administration fee. No out-of-pocket fees are to be charged to Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids members.

A child that has health insurance that covers the cost of immunizations, including high deductible plans, is considered fully insured and is not eligible for VFC vaccines. A child that is fully insured is referred to as "Private Pay." Your office must purchase vaccine for private pay children, and the insurance company should be billed for reimbursement.