

Immunizations Overview

Background

- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federal program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Immunization Program (NIP).
- The VFC program covers the cost of immunizations for Medicaid eligible children ages birth through 18 years.

At the EPSDT (HCY) Visit

- Immunization status must be assessed at each EPSDT visit.
- If a child's immunization status is not up to date, appropriate immunizations must be given at the time of the visit unless contraindicated.
- Immunizations must be documented on the HCY Screening form or in the immunizations section of an electronic medical record.
- Reasons or problems related to not giving immunizations must be recorded in the progress notes and on the Screening form.
- An immunization history must be maintained in the child's medical record for easy referral.

Reminders

- Medicaid providers are required by contract to:
 - Participate in the VFC program.
 - Provide immunizations as part of a full EPSDT (HCY) screening (unless medically contraindicated or refused by the parent/guardian for religious reasons).
- Immunizations must be administered according to the current immunization schedule recommended by the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- When completing an immunization record, providers should specify which antigens were given in the immunization (e.g., DTaP or DT)
- Providers may bill only an administration fee for immunizations (\$5 per component)
- The administration fee may be billed in addition to an office visit (if service was provided) or an EPSDT screening.

Please refer to the Missouri Care Provider Manual for complete billing information.