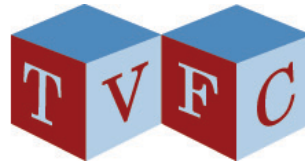


Texas Vaccines for Children



Questions & Answers

What is the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program?

The TVFC Program is Texas' version of the Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The VFC Program was initiated by the passage of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. This legislation guaranteed vaccines would be available at no cost to providers, in order to immunize children who meet the eligibility requirements.

Why should a healthcare provider enroll in the TVFC Program?

- You can provide vaccinations to your patients as part of a comprehensive care package; this will enhance the opportunity for patients to remain in their medical home.
- You can get vaccine at no cost to you to vaccinate your eligible patients.
- You will not need to refer patients to public clinics for vaccines.

Which children qualify for TVFC vaccines?

All children who are 18 years of age or younger and meet at least one of the eligibility criteria listed below qualify for TVFC vaccines:

- **Medicaid eligible:** A child who is eligible for the Medicaid program
- **Uninsured:** A child who has no health insurance coverage
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native**
- **Underinsured:** A child who has commercial (private) health insurance, but coverage does not include vaccines; a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (TVFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only); or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount (once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured)
- **Enrolled in CHIP:** Children with CHIP coverage may be immunized with TVFC vaccines only if the TVFC provider is able to bill CHIP for each vaccine given. If the provider is unable to bill CHIP, the child must be referred to another agency with the capability to bill CHIP, preferably the child's medical home.

Must providers screen patients for eligibility status each time they come for a vaccination visit?

Yes, providers must screen patients and document eligibility status each time they come for a vaccination visit. The TVFC Program provides a Patient Eligibility Screening Record (C-10) that can be used for this.

How are providers expected to verify responses for TVFC eligibility?

Providers are not expected to do anything more than ask the parent/guardian what the child's eligibility status is and then document the response.

Questions & Answers (Continued)

To participate in TVFC, are providers required to enroll as a Texas Medicaid Provider?

No, providers do not have to be enrolled in Medicaid to participate in the TVFC Program. However, you must enroll in TVFC in order to receive vaccine at no cost to you to vaccinate your Medicaid patients.

Will the Texas Medicaid Program reimburse private providers for vaccines administered to Medicaid patients?

The Texas Medicaid Program will pay providers the administration fee for each vaccine administered. The Texas Medicaid Program will not reimburse providers for the cost of the vaccine product. Medicaid providers must enroll in the TVFC to receive vaccine at no cost to vaccinate Medicaid patients.

Can I charge a fee to administer the vaccine?

Yes, providers may charge a maximum administration fee of \$22.06 per vaccine directly to the parent/guardian/patient, with the exception of Medicaid and CHIP patients. Providers are required to bill Medicaid and CHIP for the administration fee. Please note, providers must not deny the administration of a vaccine due to inability to pay.

Why are there fee caps on what providers can charge for administering vaccine?

Federal legislation requires fee caps for administration on a statewide basis that balance the provider's financial need and the patient's ability to pay.

Once enrolled, are providers required to immunize children who are not their patients?

No, you control whom you see in your practice.

Will providers be required to increase the amount of vaccine information materials they provide to parents because of the TVFC?

No, the materials required of all providers through the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act are sufficient.

Why must providers complete a Provider Profile describing their patient population by eligibility category?

This information allows the Texas Department of State Health Services to determine how the cost of vaccine will be divided among state and federal funds. TVFC requires that the Provider Profile be updated annually or more frequently if a provider's patient population changes.