



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HEALTH DIVISION

Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness

Immunization Program
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Question: What is the definition of **underinsured**?

Answer: A child is underinsured if –

- The insurance that will not pay for any vaccinations
- The insurance cap has been reached
- The insurance will pay for selected vaccines but not other vaccines (state supplied vaccine may be used for the vaccines not covered and private supply for the selected vaccines)

A child is not underinsured if the immunizations are subject to a deductible.

A child is not underinsured if the insurance reimbursement does not cover the cost of privately purchased vaccine.

Question: If a provider is deputized to immunize underinsured children, does the provider need to immunize all children that present to the practice for immunization?

Answer: A VFC provider is deputized to immunize the established underinsured patients in his/her practice. The provider does not have to immunize children who are not established patients in the practice.

Question: How is a sliding fee scale developed?

Answer: Please see the following internet site for an example of a sliding fee scale - <http://www.fhclouisville.org/sliding-fee.htm> . An internet search will display more examples.

Question: A child arrives for its 4 month old well child check and immunizations. The office staff call the insurer to see if benefits will cover the cost of the visit and immunizations. The insurer states that the visit will be covered. After filing the claim for reimbursement, the insurer replies that the visit and immunizations will not be covered. Can the provider transfer vaccine from the state supplied stock into the private stock to replace the vaccine that was used on the child but not reimbursed by the insurer?

Answer: State supplied stock **may not** be used to replenish private stock that is used but not reimbursed for by the insurer. In Nevada, insurers are required to process claims within 60 days of

receiving them. By submitting claims in a timely manner, providers should be given accurate information by the insurers at the 2, 4, & 6 month well visits.

Question: A practice contains 4 pediatricians. Two of the providers would like to be deputized, but the other two do not. Can the practice be deputized?

Answer: Two PIN numbers would have to be assigned to the practice - one PIN for the deputized providers and another PIN for the undeputized providers. In addition, the practice would need two separate storage units for the state supplied vaccine to separate the vaccine supplied to each of the PIN numbers. Two separate inventory forms would have to be maintained and two separate vaccine requests would have to be submitted each month. Two VFC enrollment forms would need to be accomplished each year.

Question: A practice with multiple clinic locations wishes to be deputized. Does an agreement form have to be signed for each location?

Answer: Yes! Each clinic location must have a separate PIN number and a delegation of authority agreement form.

Question: Should a Tribal Health Clinic be deputized?

Answer: If the Tribal Health Clinic only sees American Natives, deputization is not necessary because all the children are VFC eligible. If the Tribal Health Clinic sees non-natives with insurance, deputization would be necessary to immunize the underinsured patients.

Question: Will a provider's billing data be audited to verify that the sliding fee scale was offered to patients with no payer source?

Answer: A sliding fee scale is a requirement of the Federally Qualified Health Center that is deputizing VFC providers to immunize the underinsured. By signing the letter of agreement, the provider is agreeing to **all** the conditions, including the requirement for the sliding fee scale for those patients with no payer source for the office visit.

More questions about delegation of authority and deputization to administer state supplied vaccines to underinsured children? Call Hilary Smith at 775-684-3209.