

Questions and Answers

Texas Vaccines For Children Program (TVFC)

Question 1: What is the TVFC?

Answer: *This is our version of the Federal Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program. The TVFC 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 (birth - 18 years of age) who meet the eligibility requirements.*

Why Enroll?

Question 2: Why should a health care provider enroll in the TVFC?

Answer:

- You can get free vaccine for your eligible patients.
- You will not need to refer patients to public clinics for vaccines.
- You can provide vaccinations to your patients as part of a comprehensive care package; this will enhance the opportunity for patients to find a medical home.

Patients Served

Question 3: Once enrolled, are providers required to immunize children who are not their patients?

Answer: *No, you control whom you see in your practice.*

Children Who Qualify

Question 4: Which children qualify for free vaccines?

Answer: *All children (birth - 18 years of age) are eligible for free vaccine, except:*

- Children with insurance that pays for immunization services, and
- Children whose parents or guardians are able to pay the co-pay or deductibles for immunization services.



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Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Enrollment

Question 5: Are children who are enrolled in CHIP eligible?

Answer: Yes, through special arrangement CHIP children are also eligible.

Medicaid Enrollment

Question 6: To participate in TVFC, must providers enroll as a Texas Medicaid Provider?

Answer: No, however, if you are enrolled in the Texas Medicaid Program, you must enroll in TVFC in order to receive free vaccine.

Question 7: Will the Texas Medicaid Program reimburse private providers for vaccines administered to Medicaid patients?

Answer: The Texas Medicaid Program will not reimburse providers for the cost of the vaccine. However, the Texas Medicaid Program will reimburse providers for the administration of the vaccine.

Vaccine Related Fees

Question 8: Why are there fee caps on what providers can charge for administering vaccine?

Answer: 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.

Question 9: Will TVFC reimburse an administration fee for non-Medicaid, TVFC eligible children?

Answer: No, for non-Medicaid TVFC eligible children, providers may charge a maximum of \$14.85 per vaccine directly to the patient; administration fees **may not** exceed this amount. (Combination vaccines such as DTaP are considered **one vaccine**.)



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Question 10: *Will providers be required to increase the amount of vaccine information materials they provide to parents because of the TVFC?*

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

Eligibility Status

Question 11: *Must providers screen patients for eligibility status each time they come for a vaccination visit?*

Answer: *Yes, providers must screen patients for eligibility status each time they come for a vaccination visit. However, a new eligibility form does not need to be completed unless the patient's eligibility status has changed.*

Question 12: *How are providers expected to verify responses for TVFC eligibility?*

Answer: *Providers are not expected to do anything more than ask the patient what the child's eligibility status is and then record the response. TVFC provides a Patient Eligibility Screening Form that can be used for this.*

Question 13: *Why must providers complete a Provider Profile describing patients by eligibility category?*

Answer: *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. Each year, you may find your profile information has changed. The Provider Profile must be updated annually, in accordance with Federal requirements.*

