

Changes to State-Funded HPV Vaccine Purchases

May 2009



Washington's universal vaccine purchase and distribution system changes on July 1, 2009. Under terms of the new budget, the Department of Health must:

- Stop buying human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine with state money starting July 1, 2009.
- Stop buying all other childhood vaccines with state funding on May 1, 2010.

The federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program isn't affected by changes in state-funded vaccine purchase. Program eligibility for VFC includes children 18 and under who are Medicaid eligible; American Indian or Alaskan Native; uninsured; or underinsured for vaccines (meaning their health insurance doesn't cover vaccines or there is a limit on vaccine coverage).

Starting July 1, 2009, kids with private health insurance are no longer eligible for state-supplied HPV vaccine. The Department of Health is working on changes needed for a smooth transition. The goal is to assure children have access to HPV vaccine and providers comply with federal requirements when serving children in the federal entitlement program.

Immunization providers (1,250 clinics currently administer state-supplied vaccine)

- Screening children for eligibility for the Vaccines for Children program ensures they can get HPV vaccine purchased through that program. Eligibility is based on information parents provide; health care providers do not have to verify it.
- Buy HPV vaccine for children who aren't eligible for the VFC program. Check with health plans you contract with to verify HPV vaccine, and on billing procedures for reimbursement. Continue to order vaccines for children who meet VFC eligibility requirements through your local health agency. Immunization Program CHILD Profile will provide estimated ordering limits for HPV vaccine for your VFC eligible population.
- Change how you manage your vaccine inventory so you can track privately purchased HPV vaccine separately from HPV vaccine supplied by the state.
- Continue quality assurance work to meet state and federal requirements.

Local public health

- Communicate and train — Inform immunization providers in your community about the change in HPV purchasing effective July 1, 2009. Provide technical assistance and training to help providers screen for VFC eligibility, order HPV vaccine (through local and state public health for kids who are VFC eligible and private purchase for patients who are not VFC eligible), manage VFC entitlement program vaccine separately from private HPV vaccine inventory and continue the quality assurance work to meet federal requirements.
- Assure appropriate ordering and use of vaccine — Monitor provider orders for HPV vaccine to make sure the amount they order is right for the number of VFC eligible children in their practice. Immunization Program CHILD Profile will provide ordering limits for each provider in your community.
- Ensure access to vaccines for county immunization coverage — Identify problems with access to HPV vaccine for non-VFC children and work with the Department of Health and stakeholders to resolve problems.