



June 6, 2008

RE: Vaccines for Children and Delaware Healthy Children Programs

Dear DPCI Provider:

The state of Delaware has recently informed us of updates to vaccine funding and reimbursement of immunizations for children covered under the Delaware Healthy Children Program. Similar to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, a federally sponsored program that supplies free vaccines to certain groups of children, the state also supplies free vaccines to participating providers for Delaware Healthy Children Program members.

Accordingly, you may immediately begin to use vaccines supplied through VFC for Delaware Healthy Children members. Please remember that you must be enrolled in the VFC program to receive free vaccines. You must also record on the Immunization Reporting (IR) form vaccines used for children covered under the Delaware Healthy Children Program.

**Beginning July 15, 2008, DPCI will no longer** reimburse vaccines for Delaware Healthy Children program members. Claims submitted for immunization biological agents with a date of service after July 15, 2008 will be denied by DPCI.

Enclosed are replacement pages to your DPCI Provider Manual addressing VFC program changes. The chart below provides detail on applicable sections affected by the current update as well as the page numbers you are asked to replace.

Section Number	Replace the Following Pages	Explanation of Updates
Section III – Covered Benefits and Services	Pages 21-22	Updates to Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

These updates and the DPCI Provider Manual are also available on our web site, [www.DelawarePhysiciansCare.com](http://www.DelawarePhysiciansCare.com). As always, do not hesitate to contact your Provider Relations Representative with questions. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our members.

Sincerely,

*Mike McGarrigle*

Mike McGarrigle  
Director, Provider Relations

- Pap smear, if performed according to the US Preventative Services Task Force Guidelines, which specifies cervical cancer screening every one to three years based on the presence of risk factors.

### **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Services**

EPSDT services are federally mandated services intended to provide preventive health care to children and young adults (under the age of 21 years) at periodic intervals as determined by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). At a minimum, the following screening services must be offered:

- Comprehensive medical and developmental history; including anticipatory guidelines/health education, nutrition assessment, developmental assessment and fine/gross motor skills
- An unclothed physical exam
- Appropriate vision, hearing and laboratory testing
- Dental screening beginning at age three
- Blood lead testing
- Behavioral health screening
- Nutritional assessment

In addition to any diagnostic and treatment services included in the Basic Benefit Package, EPSDT eligible members must be provided the following services, if the need for such services is indicated by the screening services:

- Diagnosis and treatment for defects in vision and hearing
- Dental care as early as needed, including relief of pain and infections, routine maintenance and restoration of teeth (for Title XIX Members only)
- Appropriate immunizations if determined at the time of screening that the immunization is needed.
- Prenatal care services
- Any other follow-up diagnostic and treatment services deemed medically necessary to ameliorate or correct a problem identified during the screening process. These services are to be provided as long as they are Medicaid-covered Services

See Section 5 and Section 15 for more information about the EPSDT program.

### **Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program**

The federal-sponsored Vaccines for Children (VFC) program supplies free vaccines to participating providers to certain groups of children under age 19 (i.e., Medicaid, uninsured, American Indian, and Alaskan Native children).

- All participating providers are expected to enroll in the VFC program in order to receive the free vaccines.

- DPCI will reimburse participating providers a VFC administration fee as determined by the State of Delaware.
- DPCI will not reimburse for the cost of vaccines, as they are supplied free-of-charge through the VFC Program.
- DPCI will not reimburse for the cost of vaccines for children covered under the Delaware Healthy Children Program, as the State of Delaware funds the VFC program for these children. Providers may use VFC Program vaccines for Delaware Healthy Children members and must record on the Immunization Reporting (IR) form vaccines used for children covered under the Delaware Healthy Children Program.
- The provider must bill DPCI for the biological **and** administration codes in order to receive reimbursement.
- Participating providers must follow the ACIP schedule for immunizations.
- Immunization Reporting (IR) documents will be given to providers who administer and provide immunizations, for recording and reporting all immunizations. These forms are provided by the state to physicians and others to keep and use for the next immunization.

The VFC Program is not available for children covered under the Delaware Healthy Children Program (Title XXI). However, the State of Delaware provides supplemental funding to the VFC program for vaccines provided to these children. Participating providers will be reimbursed for the administration fee for immunizations provided to these children.

### **Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

IDEA mandates both the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) for children with disabilities age zero to three and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for children with disabilities age three to 20. DPCI strongly encourages all participating providers to coordinate plan benefits with the member's school district and other appropriate providers to prevent duplication of coverage, assure medical necessity guidelines are met and provide for service delivery in a cost-effective manner.

The school districts will be responsible for providing school-based therapy services (e.g., occupational, physical and speech therapy) for children who are eligible to receive services under the Individuals with Disability Education Act. DPCI and its participating providers are responsible for providing services in the IEP/IFSP that are medically necessary outside of the school setting. The IFSP or IEP is considered the authorizing document for these services.

PCPs are encouraged to refer children to and participate in the Child Development Watch. Multi-disciplinary teams that include the PCP and DPCI coordinate assessments and services with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' Child Development Watch Program. There is currently a multidisciplinary assessment conducted by Child Development Watch that is paid directly by the Department of Health and Social Services.