

February 29, 2012

# Montana Health Care Programs Notice Pharmacy

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## Important Update

### Vaccine Administration by Pharmacists for Adolescents Age 12–18 Years

During the 2011 session, the Montana Legislature passed Senate Bill 189 which allows pharmacists to provide influenza immunizations to children 12 years and older.

Later this year, Montana Medicaid will use the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program for influenza vaccines administered in a pharmacy to Medicaid-eligible children 12 through 18 years of age. Because VFC provides vaccines to this population free of charge, the Department will stop reimbursing the ingredient cost of the vaccine, but will continue pay the dispensing fee.

VFC is a federally funded entitlement program that provides vaccines at no cost to children 0 through 18 years of age who are Medicaid eligible, American Indian, Alaskan Native, or uninsured.

If pharmacies wish to offer influenza vaccine to VFC-eligible children 12 years and older, they must enroll in the VFC Program and use VFC vaccines. The other option is to refer these patients to a nearby VFC provider or the local health department.

The Montana Immunization Program implements the VFC Program within the state. To become a VFC provider, a pharmacy must be willing to:

- Attend a training session and host an enrollment site visit from the Immunization Program.
- Sign annually, and adhere to the provisions of a VFC Provider Site Contract.
- Follow the vaccine storage, handling, and accountability requirements set forth in the State Vaccine Management Plan.
- Order and manage VFC vaccines through the online State immunization registry.

VFC enrollment for pharmacies begins in March 2012, with the goal of having participating pharmacies enrolled by June 2012, when orders for influenza vaccine are due. The training and enrollment site visit must be completed before receiving VFC influenza vaccine shipments.

The Montana Immunization Program is hosting a webinar for pharmacies wishing to learn more about the VFC Program. The webinar is scheduled for March 1 at 2 p.m. Please see page 2 of this notice for information on joining the webinar.

If you already know you would like to enroll, please contact the Immunization Program at (406) 444-5580 or at [hhsiz@mt.gov](mailto:hhsiz@mt.gov). We will include your pharmacy on the enrollment roster and contact you with enrollment materials and instructions when the process begins in March.

If you have questions regarding this provider notice, contact Dave Campana (406) 444-5951 (Medicaid) or Lori Hutchinson (406) 444-0277 (VFC).

## **Pharmacies and the VFC Program**

**Informational Webinar hosted by the Montana Immunization Program**

### **March 1, 2012, Meeting Information**

Topic: Pharmacies & the VFC Program

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time (Denver, GMT-07:00)

Meeting Number: 573 166 668

Meeting Password: immune10

To join the online meeting, go to:

<https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt/j.php?ED=193931337&UID=496909837&PW=NOWEyMGY5MmVm&RT=MiM2>

#### **Audio conference information:**

Call-in toll-free number (U.S./Canada): (877) 668-4490

Call-in toll number (U.S./Canada): (408) 792-6300

Audio Access code: 573 166 668

**Please refer to the link below for conference materials.**

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/immunization/vaccinesforchildren.shtml>

## **Contact Information**

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations:

**Provider Relations toll-free in- and out-of-state: 1-800-624-3958**

**Helena: (406) 442-1837**

**E-mail: [MTPRHelpdesk@ACS-inc.com](mailto:MTPRHelpdesk@ACS-inc.com)**

Visit the Provider Information website:

**<http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov>**