



TO: Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Providers
Regional Directors, Health Service Regions
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
Directors, Local Health Departments
Immunization Managers, Local Health Departments

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager
Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager *mg/JS*
Immunization Branch *12/28/11*

DATE: December 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program: Eligibility Policy Changes

DSHS has developed policy changes to the TVFC childhood vaccine program in response to reductions in state and federal immunization funds, increased federal accountability for publicly-funded vaccines, as well as increases in prices for some vaccines.

This memo addresses (1) updates to the TVFC provider eligibility, (2) updates to the patient eligibility criteria, and (3) new TVFC standardized forms. The policies described below are effective beginning January 1, 2012.

(1) TVFC Provider Eligibility

TVFC has expanded provider eligibility to include registered pharmacists (RPh). With this addition, the list of health care professionals eligible to enroll in TVFC include: Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Physician Assistant (PA), and Registered Pharmacist (RPh).

The health care providers who must continue to enroll under the standing delegation orders of a physician include: Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Medical Assistant (MA), Nurse Assistant (NA), and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

(2) TVFC Patient Eligibility

The following changes to TVFC patient eligibility are effective beginning January 1, 2012.

1. Children who have private insurance that covers vaccines will no longer be eligible for TVFC vaccines in public health department clinics, but instead will be referred to their medical home for immunization services. In some cases, local health departments may be the medical home that provides comprehensive healthcare services. In these cases, private insurance is accepted in those public health settings. Private stock vaccine must be purchased and/or acquired in order to continue vaccinating fully, privately insured children.
2. Individuals who begin a vaccine series at age 18 or younger (and TVFC-eligible), may only finish that series at public health clinics that are Adult Vaccine Safety Net (ASN) providers (typically the public health department), provided the series is completed prior to their 20th birthday. Historically providers have been able to vaccinate these individuals at any TVFC-enrolled site.
3. The definition of "Underinsured" will be modified as described in the section below. Insured children with vaccine coverage who have high copays or deductibles are no longer considered underinsured. These children are now considered fully, privately insured and are no longer eligible for TVFC vaccines. Children qualifying under the new definition of underinsured will continue to be eligible to receive vaccines in any TVFC-enrolled provider office. Underinsured children are not required to be referred to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

Updated Policy:

Children, birth through 18 years of age, who meet at least one of the following criteria, are eligible to receive TVFC vaccine from any TVFC-enrolled provider:

- Medicaid eligible: A child who is eligible for the Medicaid program
- Uninsured: A child who has no health insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- **Underinsured (*New Definition*)**: A child who has commercial (private) health insurance, but coverage does not include vaccines; a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (TVFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only); or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured.
- Enrolled in CHIP

(3) New TVFC Standardized Forms

Attached are three forms to be used to support this revised TVFC policy: *Patient Eligibility Screening Record (C-10, 12/2011)*, *TVFC Patient Screening Decision Tree*, and *Patient Referral Form for Vaccination from Local Health Department or Public Health Clinic* (for public health agencies only).

***Patient Eligibility Screening Record* (C-10, revised 12/2011)**

It is a federal requirement that providers document the eligibility of each client receiving TVFC vaccine. Providers may use the Patient Eligibility Screening Form, (C-10), or electronically store this information. This C-10 (revised 12/2011) is now consistent with the updated definitions and insurance status guidelines. A new C-10 is to be completed once for all patients, including patients with an old form on file. Once the new form is completed it may be used until the child's category of eligibility changes. Patient eligibility must be verified each time prior to vaccine administration.

***TVFC Patient Screening Decision Tree* (revised 12/2011)**

This diagram may be used by screeners in both public and private clinics to aid in determining patient eligibility for TVFC vaccine under the new guidelines. The diagram also indicates when providers should use private stock vaccine, or refer patients to another provider that accepts the patients' private insurance.

***Patient Referral Form for Vaccination from Local Health Department or Public Health Clinics* (revised 12/2011)**

This form may be used when a fully, privately insured child presents for services in a public health clinic and must be referred to their medical home. The second page of the form includes a recommended referral process (questions to help identify eligibility) that can be used by clinic staff when a patient calls or presents in-person. Also on the form is space to include any identified referral sites. Public health agencies are encouraged to coordinate with local vaccine providers to establish options for referring fully insured patients.

If you have questions regarding any of these policy changes or use of any of the attached forms, please contact your Local Health Department, Health Service Region, or TVFC Consultant.

Attachments:

Patient Eligibility Screening Record

TVFC Patient Screening Decision Tree

Patient Referral Form for Vaccination from Local Health Department or Public Health Clinics

**Patient Referral Form for Vaccination
From Local Health Department or Public Health Clinic**

(Patient Name) _____

Date of Birth (____ / ____ / ____)

This patient needs one or more vaccinations but has private health insurance and is not eligible for publically purchased vaccines available through the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program.

Effective January 1, 2012, Public Health no longer vaccinates clients who are privately insured. ***Therefore, we are referring this patient to his/her medical home for the needed vaccinations.***

If the medical home is not able to provide the immunization(s), the patient should be referred to another clinic that accepts the patient's medical insurance.

Referring Public Health Clinic:

NOTE: Issuance of this Patient Referral Form for Vaccination does not extend any state mandated vaccine requirements, or allow children to enter school without appropriate immunizations.

Referral Process

When a patient presents for services at a local health department or public health clinic, staff should first ask if the patient has health insurance.

If no: The patient is eligible for TVFC vaccine.

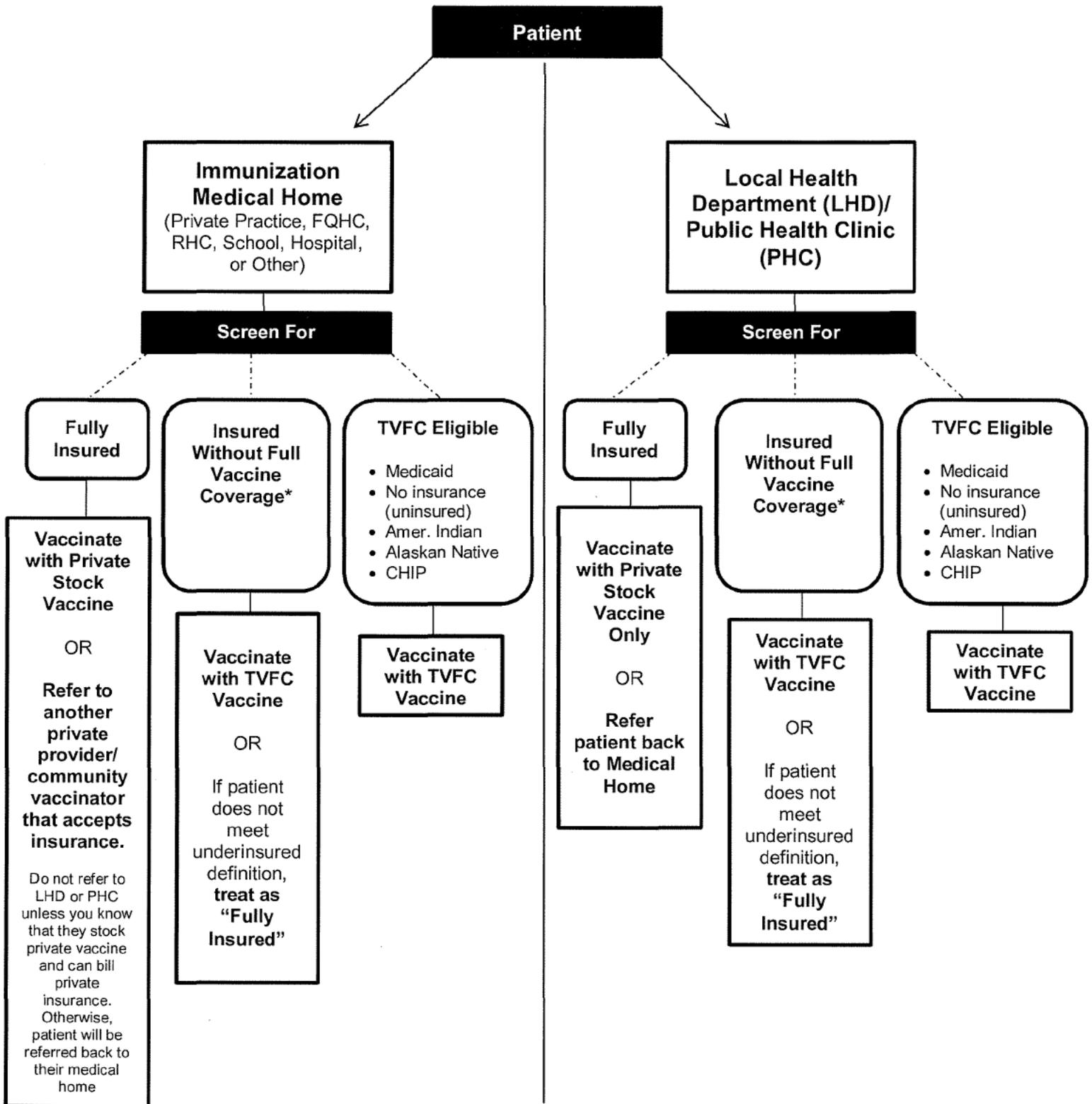
If yes: Is the insurance Medicaid, CHIP, or other private insurance?
If private insurance: Explain to the patient that the clinic no longer accepts their insurance due to billing issues, and they need to receive vaccines from their medical home. Provide *Patient Referral Form for Vaccination* if helpful or necessary.

If the patient has Medicaid or CHIP: The patient is eligible for TVFC vaccine.

Local Referral Sites (if available):

Name	Phone number	Address
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Texas Vaccines for Children Patient Screening Decision Tree



* Effective January 1, 2012, the definition of "Underinsured" is: 1) commercial (private) health insurance, but coverage does not include vaccines; or 2) insurance covers only selected vaccines (TVFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only); or 3) insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured.