FRAUD AND ABUSE HURTS CHILDREN.

FRAUD is the intentional deception or misrepresentation that an individual makes, that the individual knows to be false, and could result in some unauthorized benefit to himself/herself or some other person.

ABUSE includes incidents or practices of providers that are inconsistent with stated program policies on the Texas Vaccines For Children Provider Enrollment form. This form requires the signature of the physician-in-charge and ensures that the physician and staff will follow the requirements of the TVFC.

EXAMPLES

- A provider discontinues purchasing vaccine for patients whose insurance covers immunizations, or for individuals who can afford vaccine, and gives every patient in the practice state-supplied vaccine whether they are eligible or not.
- A provider bills Medicaid or Texas Health Steps for the immunization reimbursement fee when no vaccines were given.
- A provider administers state-supplied vaccine to a child, then bills the child's insurance for the cost of the vaccine.
- A provider charges the patient for the cost of the vaccine.
- A provider charges a Medicaid recipient any fee at all.

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you become aware of a situation or practice that you consider to be potential fraud or abuse, please contact your local or regional health department, or call the TDH Immunization Division toll-free number **1-800-252-9152.**

Being able to contact you during the course of the investigation is very helpful and important, however, you may remain anonymous if you wish.

TEXAS VACCINES FOR CHILDREN
SHOTS ACROSS TEXAS

COOPERATION

Compliance with Program requirements is important and requires the cooperation of all citizens. A variety of methods are used to control and monitor for misuse of state-supplied vaccine. Monthly vaccine accounting reports are monitored to ensure vaccine is given to appropriate and approved age groups. Medicaid reimburses for vaccine administration costs, not the cost of the vaccine. All complaints regarding vaccine misuse received by the TVFC are followed up by local health departments, regional health departments, and the state central office in Austin.

RESPONSIBILITY

Providers enrolled in the TVFC program are responsible for following federal and state guidelines in the use of state-supplied vaccine, and to ensure that the vaccine is used only for children who are eligible. This responsibility is taken very seriously.

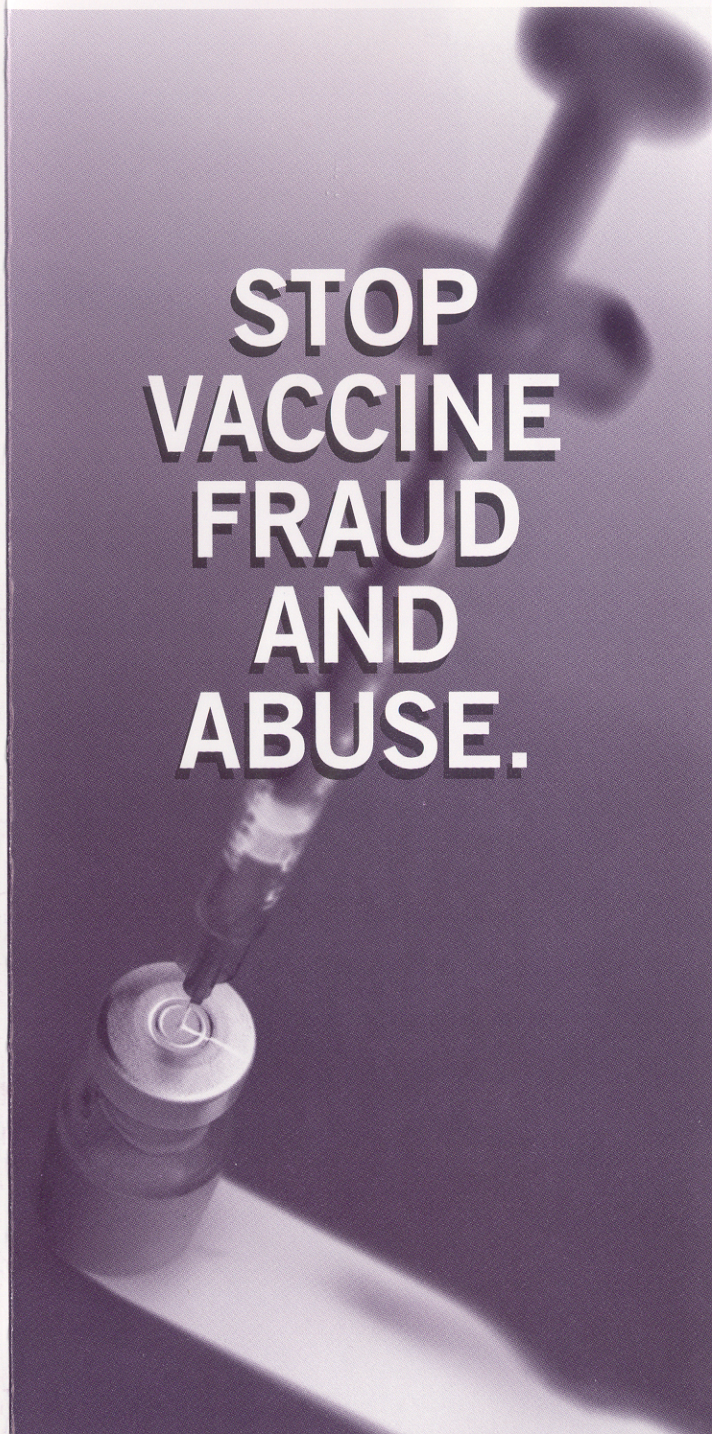
Although only a very small percentage of health care professionals engage in fraudulent and abusive practices, those few who do are taking resources from Texans who need these services. Those Texans are our children!

TDH
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Texas Department of Health
Immunization Division
1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 78756

Stock No. 11-10373 Revision 8/01

TEXAS VACCINES FOR CHILDREN
SHOTS ACROSS TEXAS



STOP VACCINE FRAUD AND ABUSE.