

## Patient VFC Eligibility

Through the VFC Program, federally purchased vaccine will be available at no charge to public and private providers for eligible children. The VFC program served about 41% of the childhood population in 2002. Children that meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for VFC vaccine:

- Medicaid enrolled means that a child is enrolled in the Medicaid program
- Without health insurance means that a child has no health insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaskan Native means those children as defined in the Indian Health Services Act
- Underinsured means the child has some type of health insurance, but the benefit plan does not include vaccinations.

Children with health insurance that covers the cost of vaccinations are not eligible through the VFC program, even when that coverage requires a deductible. Patients may be screened for VFC eligibility by asking the parents if their child/children qualify through one of the criteria and recording the parents' answer. The following form may be used to record the parents' answer or the parent/guardian can complete the form. In other words, a "yes" answer to one of the criteria listed above is sufficient for a child to qualify for the VFC program. There is no requirement for verification of the answer. Use of the following form is not required. Providers can design their own form or incorporate VFC eligibility recording into an established form.

However, the health care provider must keep this record for the VFC-eligible child for no less than three years and make it available to state or federal officials for inspection upon request. The same form may be used for all of the child's subsequent visits provided the child's eligibility status does not change. If this form is used for subsequent immunizations with VFC program vaccines, the three year period begins on the date the child received his or her last VFC program-provided vaccine.

**Citizenship and immigrant status are immaterial to the VFC program. Vaccinate any child who meets one of the four eligibility categories.**

In Oklahoma, underinsured children may receive VFC vaccine from any VFC provider under agreements between the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Rural Health Clinics.