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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H., Chief, Immunization Branch  
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SUBJECT: Introduction to Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) Program

### SUMMARY

The California VFC Program would like to inform you about a change to Compliance Site Visits that are conducted at clinics enrolled in VFC. Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) is a CDC provider-level quality improvement (QI) program designed to help increase on-time vaccination of children and adolescents. If selected, your VFC Program Representative (VFC or Immunization Branch Field Representative) will collaborate with your practice to implement this new quality improvement program. IQIP replaces CDC's quality improvement process known as AFIX.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of IQIP is to promote and support the implementation of provider-level quality improvement strategies. IQIP strategies are designed to support VFC providers in identifying opportunities to increase vaccine uptake in adherence with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. These strategies also support Department of Health Services (DHCS) quality measures for Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs), including [CIS](#) Combo 10 and [IMA](#) Combo 2.

Other benefits of IQIP to your practice include:

#### Receiving:

- free technical assistance and consultation
- free quality improvement (QI) plan customized for your clinic
- certificates of recognition from the VFC Program\*

#### Learning:

- about tools and resources to improve vaccination coverage and prevent disease among patients

\*Certificates awarded after meeting IQIP Program criteria



## CORE IQIP PROGRAM STRATEGIES

While your clinic may not be selected for an IQIP visit each year, it is important that you be aware of the strategies CDC recommends for improving immunization coverage in your clinic. When feasible, assess your clinic's operational flows and processes to incorporate them where indicated.

IQIP Strategies include:

- 1. Scheduling the next immunization visit before the patient leaves the office.***
- 2. Being aware of and fully utilizing your available immunization registry functions to improve immunization practice.***
- 3. Giving a strong vaccine recommendation, including HPV vaccine if your clinic sees adolescent patients.***
- 4. Making influenza vaccination as routine in your clinic as all other ACIP-recommended vaccines you offer.***

## IQIP PROCESS

Please note that not all VFC compliance visits will include an IQIP process. Your VFC Field Representative will notify you during the visit scheduling process when your practice is selected for a combined VFC Compliance/IQIP visit. The IQIP portion of the site visit may be conducted before or at the conclusion of a VFC Compliance site visit.

### Prior to an IQIP Visit: Immunization Coverage Rate Assessments

If childhood and/or adolescent patients are reported in the registry by your site, your VFC Program Representative will use the registry information available to assess vaccination coverage rates. These rates will be provided to you during the IQIP visit:

<b>Assessment Group</b>	<b>Vaccines Assessed</b>
Childhood (24-35 months)	4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, Up-to-date (UTD) Hib, UTD Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella, UTD PCV13, UTD Influenza
Adolescent (13-17 years)	1 Tdap, UTD MenACWY and UTD HPV, 1 Influenza

### During Your IQIP Visit: Development of a Quality Improvement Plan

Your VFC Program Representative will work with you to develop an IQIP plan that will include two quality improvement strategies, resources, and supporting action items to be implemented by you and your staff.

### **After the Visit: 2-month, 6-month, and 12 month Check-in Calls**

A follow-up phone call will be scheduled and conducted by your VFC Program Representative 2 months and 6 months following your initial visit. During these calls, your clinic may discuss how well your IQIP plan is going and your VFC Program Representative will provide any technical assistance as needed. At 12 months, another follow-up call will be conducted by your VFC Program Representative to reassess your vaccination coverage rates and discuss progress on meeting your goals. Upon completion of the 12-month follow-up, your IQIP site visit will be finished for the year.

### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your VFC Program Representative or visit the [IQIP](#) webpage on EZIZ.org. Thank you for your continued commitment in assisting the VFC Program with protecting California's children against vaccine preventable diseases.