

# VFC Eligibility Screening & Documentation Requirements for Pharmacies



## 1. Screen for VFC Eligibility at Every Immunization Visit

Pharmacies must screen ALL patients 18 years of age or younger at every immunization visit prior to administering VFC vaccines.

## 2. Determine Which Eligibility Criterion Is Met

To be VFC-eligible, patients must meet at least one of these four criteria:

- **Medicaid-eligible (or enrolled):** Has Medi-Cal as primary or secondary coverage
- **American Indian (AI) or Alaska Native (AN):** As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- **Uninsured:** A child who has no health insurance coverage  
**Underinsured:** A child who has private health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines; a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines.
- **Underinsured:** A child who has private health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines; a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines. Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Center (RHC).

Verification of patient/parent response or self-identification of eligibility criterion (or criteria) is not required. No other factor may be considered when screening for VFC eligibility.

## 3. Document VFC Eligibility in CAIR

Pharmacies must document patient eligibility (and doses administered) in the California Immunization Registry (CAIR). Eligibility documentation must include these elements:

- Date of screening
- Whether or not the patient is VFC-eligible
- Which eligibility criterion (or criteria) was met (e.g., Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured, or underinsured)

Maintain patient eligibility screening records for a minimum of 3 years.

## 4. Ensure Vaccinators Only Use VFC-Supplied Vaccines for VFC Children

Staff who conduct VFC-eligibility screening are not necessarily vaccinators. Update practice protocols so vaccinators know when to use VFC-supplied vaccine and when to use private stock. Group and label VFC and private vaccines separately to prevent errors.



California  
Vaccines for  
Children Program