

VFC Eligibility Criteria for Patients at a Glance

10/02/2019

VFC-eligible children must be less than 19 years old and meet the definition of at least one of the following criteria.

VFC Eligibility Criteria	Criteria Definition
American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN)	This population is defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603). AI/AN children are always VFC-eligible under any circumstance. <i>NOTE: For AI/AN children that have full immunization benefits through a primary private insurer, the decision to participate in the VFC Program should be made based on what is most cost-beneficial to the child and family.</i>
Medicaid-eligible	Children who are eligible for the Medicaid program (For the purposes of the VFC program, the terms “Medicaid-eligible” and Medicaid-enrolled” are used interchangeable.)
Medicaid as Secondary Insurance	A child may have private health insurance and Medicaid as secondary insurance. The child is VFC-eligible as long as they are enrolled in Medicaid. However, the parent is not required to participate in the VFC Program. There are two options: 1. Administer VFC vaccine and bill Medicaid for the administration fee 2. Administer private stock vaccine and bill primary insurance for both the cost of vaccine and the administration fee.
Uninsured	Children not covered by any health insurance plan. Self-reported status is accepted. <i>NOTE: A child covered by a Health Care Sharing Ministries (Medi-Share) is considered “uninsured” in Tennessee. These plans are nonprofit alternatives to purchasing health insurance and are not recognized as insurance by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.</i>
Underinsured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child who has health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines. • A child whose insurance does not cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines. The child is eligible to receive from VFC only those vaccines not covered by the insurance. • A child whose insurance caps its payment for vaccine coverage. The child is eligible to receive VFC vaccine after the insurance cap has been reached. If the cap is expected to be reached as a result of the cost of all of the services provided at the visit, VFC vaccine may be used. <p>NOTE: underinsured children may receive VFC vaccine only at an FQHC, RHC, or LDH **Underinsurance, limited coverage, and “caps” are increasingly uncommon coverage options and may only occur in insurance plans not compliant with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). ACA-compliant plans are required to provide all ACIP-recommended immunizations with no deductible or co-pay when administered by an in-network provider).</p>

Children who are ineligible for VFC vaccines include:

1. ***Privately insured** – children whose health insurance covers vaccinations as a benefit are not eligible for VFC vaccines. This applies even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan’s deductible has not been met.
2. **CoverKids** - The state child health insurance plan is not part of Medicaid, so children enrolled in CoverKids are ineligible for VFC vaccine.