



**TO:** Regional Directors, Health Service Regions  
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions  
Directors, Local Health Departments  
Immunization Managers, Local Health Departments

**FROM:** Karen Hess, Manager   
Vaccine Services Group

**THRU:** Jack C. Sims, Manager   
Immunization Branch

**DATE:** December 22, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Policy Changes to Adult Vaccine Safety Net program

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***Memo Distribution: This memo is intended for all Adult Vaccine Safety Net (ASN) providers<sup>1</sup>; please do not disseminate to other private providers.***

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has reevaluated Texas population estimates and calculated funds needed to finance state vaccine policies. This assessment was necessary due to state and federal funding reductions for fiscal year 2012, which have resulted in fewer dollars to support the Adult Vaccine Safety Net (ASN) program. In response to these changes, the Immunization Branch has refined the vaccines and patient eligibility policies for the ASN program to align them with available funding. The primary changes include reducing the number of vaccines available through the ASN, and limiting the eligibility to uninsured adults only.

Effective January 1, 2012, the vaccines available in the ASN will include hepatitis B; measles/mumps/rubella (MMR); tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap), and tetanus/diphtheria (Td). In addition to these vaccines, a limited amount of influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) will be available to DSHS Health Service Regions that act as the local health departments for some areas of the state. ASN sites that have other adult vaccines provided by DSHS in their inventory may continue to provide these vaccines to adults under the old policy until the stock is depleted. The Adult Safety Net Eligibility Chart is attached at the end of this memo and will be located on [www.immunizetexas.org](http://www.immunizetexas.org).

TVFC providers are not allowed to vaccinate any adult with TVFC vaccine, including finishing a series for a TVFC eligible person that started the series prior to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is now

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<sup>1</sup> ASN sites include: Local health departments, DSHS regional clinics, Family Planning Clinics, HIV/STD clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and Opioid Replacement Therapy Clinics.

DSHS policy to have 19 year olds, who need to complete a vaccine series, finish the series at an ASN public health clinic. The series must be completed by the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The ASN eligibility criteria include vaccination of uninsured adults, 19 years and older in accordance with the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for the following vaccines only:

1. Hepatitis B
2. Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
3. Tetanus/Diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) and Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)
4. Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4) (**Only available through January 2012 as per the DSHS Memo dated 11/21/11**). Additional information on the meningococcal vaccine requirement may be found at:  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=A641CD0D-E56A-A36A-1BCB39FF80781178>
5. Influenza (**DSHS Health Service Regions only**)
6. Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPSV) (**DSHS Health Service Regions only**)

#### **Adult Eligibility Screening Record**

The *Adult Eligibility Screening Record* (attached) is required when administering any ASN vaccine. This form has been updated to screen for uninsured patients only, and should be stored for three years. All patients receiving adult vaccines provided by DSHS must complete this form.

If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact your TVFC Consultant or Health Service Region.

#### Attachments:

Adult Vaccine Safety Net Eligibility Chart  
Adult Eligibility Screening Record

<b>ADULT VACCINE SAFETY NET ELIGIBILITY CHART</b>				
	<b>DSHS Health Service Regions</b>	<b>Local Health Departments (LHD)</b>	<b>Providers Enrolled in Adult Safety Net Program</b>	<b>Special Comments</b>
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Uninsured adults 19 years of age and older in accordance with CDC ACIP recommendations			Finish series started prior to 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday in public health clinics. Must finish series by age 20.
<b>Hepatitis A/B (Twinrix)</b>	None			None
<b>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</b>	None			None
<b>Influenza</b>	Uninsured adults 19 years of age and older in accordance with CDC ACIP recommendations	None.	None	None
<b>MMR</b>	Uninsured adults 19 years of age and older in accordance with CDC ACIP recommendations			Finish series started prior to 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday in public health clinics. Must finish series by age 20.
<b>Meningococcal conjugate virus (MCV4)*</b>	Only available through January 2012 as per the DSHS Memo dated 11/21/11			None*
<b>Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)</b>	Uninsured adults 19 years of age and older in accordance with CDC ACIP recommendations	None	None	None
<b>Td/Tdap</b>	Uninsured adults 19 years of age and older in accordance with CDC ACIP recommendations			Finish series started prior to 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday in public health clinics. Must finish series by age 20.
<b>Varicella</b>	None			None
<b>Zoster</b>	None			None



**Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Branch  
Adult Safety Net Vaccination Program**

**ADULT ELIGIBILITY SCREENING RECORD**

**PURPOSE:** To determine and record eligibility for the DSHS Adult Safety Net Vaccination Program. A record of the eligibility status of adults receiving vaccine supplied by DSHS must be maintained either in hard copy by the clinic providing the service or in an electronic system such as TWICES. Hard copies should be maintained for three years. The record may be used for all subsequent visits as long as the patient's eligibility status has not changed.

Date of Screening: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle initial)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Criteria**

- I declare that I qualify for vaccines through the Texas Vaccines for Children Adult Safety Net Program because I do not have health insurance.
- I am 19 years of age and I have been referred to the public health department clinic to finish a vaccine series that I began when I was 18 years of age or younger.

Referring Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** HIV/STD clinics that are participating in the hepatitis B special initiative are not required to use this form; all clients in an HIV/STD clinic are eligible for Hepatitis B vaccine. The form is required if the HIV/STD clinic is providing vaccines other than hepatitis B.

With few exceptions, you have the right to request and to be informed about information that the State of Texas collects about you. You are entitled to receive and review the information upon request. You also have the right to ask the agency to correct any information that is determined to be incorrect. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us> for more information on Privacy Notification. (Reference: Government Code, Section 552.021, 552.023, and 559.004)