



Introduction to the Provider Manual and the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program

Last Updated: 10/2014

I. Provider Manual Information

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Branch has prepared the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program Provider Manual. Consultation on the policies in this manual are conducted routinely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DSHS, and other organizations.

The purpose of the TVFC Provider Manual is to consolidate TVFC policies and information into one source document for providers. Throughout the year, the DSHS Immunization Branch and TVFC will educate providers on new policies via official policy letters. All updates will be included in the Provider Manual posted on the TVFC webpage. For providers using printed copies, each policy letter should be placed in the back of the TVFC Provider Manual. The Provider Manual will undergo a comprehensive review annually.

II. Public Health Law Establishing the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is authorized by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA), Section 1928 of the Social Security Act.

Funding from the federal VFC Program is supplemented with 317 and State General Revenue funds to support TVFC and all immunization activities across Texas.

TVFC enables thousands of children to have access to immunizations. This is accomplished through a network of support within DSHS and with support from public and private entities, such as local health departments (LHD) and private physicians.

III. Vision and Mission of the DSHS Immunization Branch

Vision: A Texas free of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Mission: To provide leadership to increase vaccine coverage levels and reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases for all Texas infants, children, adolescents, and adults.

IV. Goals of the DSHS Immunization Branch

- Raise and sustain vaccine coverage levels for infants and children
- Improve adolescent vaccine coverage levels
- Improve adult vaccine coverage levels
- Prevent and reduce cases of vaccine preventable diseases
- Maintain and improve public health preparedness
- Promote and practice the safe handling of vaccines and ensure the accountability of all program components

V. Goals of the TVFC Program

- Eliminate vaccine cost as a barrier to immunizations
- Reduce the need for referrals by private providers to public clinics through keeping children in their “medical home” for comprehensive health care
- Provide a vaccine delivery system that is both efficient and effective for public and private providers