



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Med-QUEST Division
Medical Standards Branch
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

January 31, 2007

MEMORANDUM

QUEST MEMO
BEN-0701

TO: QUEST Medical Plans

FROM: Wesley Mun, Acting Med-QUEST Division Administrator *WM*

SUBJECT: COVERAGE OF VACCINE FOR CHILDREN (VFC) VACCINES
DURING SHORTAGES OR VACCINE DELIVERY DELAYS

The cost of vaccines provided by the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is not included in the capitation payments made to the QUEST plans. However, the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) supports the QUEST plans in their decision to use every appropriate encounter to maintain optimal levels of immunization in their membership rather than to delay immunizations until the vaccines are available through the VFC Program.

Thus, the purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the situations in which the MQD will be financially responsible for privately acquired vaccines and to detail the process that the QUEST plans must use to seek reimbursement from the MQD.

SITUATIONS IN WHICH THE MQD WILL COVER PRIVATELY ACQUIRED VACCINES THAT ARE COVERED BY THE VFC PROGRAM:

- There is a vaccine shortage of one or more VFC vaccines that is expected to last for more than one month.
- There is a delay in the delivery of one or more VFC vaccines that is expected to last for more than one month.
- There is a recall of vaccine lot(s) that cannot be replaced earlier than one month.

- A new vaccine has been approved as a VFC vaccine but initial delivery is not expected within the month.

PROCESS FOR RECEIVING REIMBURSEMENT:

- The Department of Health (DOH) Immunization Branch will notify the QUEST plans and the MQD of shortages, delivery delays, recalls, new vaccines covered by the VFC program.
- If interruption in VFC delivery is reported to the QUEST plan by a provider, the QUEST plan will contact the DOH Immunization Branch to confirm the problem, obtain the approximate date that the problem will be alleviated, and report this information to the MQD.
- After the MQD verifies the problem, it will notify all QUEST plans that privately acquired vaccines can be used. It will specify the start date of MQD reimbursement and (if known) the termination date.
- The QUEST plans will notify and develop payment agreements with their provider networks.
- The QUEST plans will submit an itemized invoice to the MQD Finance Office to cover the period that the MQD authorized.
 1. If the period of VFC vaccine unavailability extends beyond three (3) months, itemized invoices can be sent every 3 months. All invoices must be received no later than 3 months after the date that VFC vaccine becomes available.
 2. Payment by the MQD will be for vaccine cost only and be the amount actually paid by a QUEST plan to its providers.
- At a minimum, the itemized invoice should have the following information:
 1. Name of QUEST plan; name and contact phone number of the plan staff who prepared the invoice; date the invoice was sent to the Finance Office;
 2. Name of recipient;
 3. Medicaid Identification Number of recipient;
 4. Date of service;
 5. Name of vaccine;

6. NDC Number of the vaccine;
7. Actual dosage given in NCPDP units;
8. Name of provider;
9. Provider charge;
10. Payment amount (vaccine cost only) extended to the provider by the QUEST plan; and
11. Total payment made by the QUEST plan for vaccine costs on the invoice.