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Memorandum

To: Vaccines for Children (VFC)-Enrolled Providers

From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director, Immunization Program

Date: December 2014

Subject: VFC Eligibility Screening within an Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Since 2013, the federal Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) has required providers to screen anyone less than 19 years of age for VFC eligibility at every immunization visit. The outcome of this screening must be documented and dated. Documentation of VFC eligibility may be captured in hardcopy (paper) or through electronic health record (EHR) systems.

In order to facilitate the collection of this information, many EHRs have created internal drop-down menus offering several selection options for VFC eligibility. Unfortunately, some of these options are not appropriate for use in every state, or are not in accordance with VFC standard definitions. In order to establish consistency, this memo describes the appropriate options to use when documenting VFC eligibility in Massachusetts.

Please note that despite the presence of alternate options in respective EHRs, only the following categories are acceptable for reporting VFC eligibility:

- VFC Eligible – Medicaid: a child eligible for MassHealth or Medicaid, including Medicaid HMOs. This category may be selected even if the child has MassHealth or Medicaid as their secondary insurance.
- VFC Eligible – Uninsured: a child with no insurance.

- VFC Eligible – American Indian/Alaskan Native: a child who (or whose parent/guardian) self identifies as American Indian (Native American) or Alaskan Native. Please note that no documentation/verification is required.
- Not VFC Eligible: Any child with private health insurance.

In addition, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) may also utilize the following option when applicable:

- VFC Eligible – Underinsured: a child with private health insurance that does not cover vaccines.

The use of any other options, including, but not limited to: state specific eligible, local specific eligible, unknown or names of other specific programs is not acceptable in Massachusetts.

If you have any questions about screening and documenting VFC eligibility, please call the Assessment Unit at 617-983-4330.