

**Philadelphia Immunization Program
SPECIAL DELIVERY**

**The Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control**

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH, Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity / Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH, Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD, Director, Division of Disease Control



September 7, 2011

• VFC Eligibility Guide Now Available

It is important that VFC eligible children are correctly identified prior to any vaccine administration. Attached is a quick guide to help identify who is VFC eligible and who is not. This document is two pages long. The first page provides instructions on how to read insurance cards. The second page highlights the differences between CHIP insurance cards and Medicaid insurance cards. Please use the guide as a reference in your practice to confirm VFC eligibility prior to any vaccine administration.

Please note that CHIP and Medicaid insurance and insurance cards may change annually. The Philadelphia Immunization Program will keep the guide updated, but ultimately it is the provider's responsibility to correctly identify VFC eligible children prior to any vaccine administration.



Philadelphia VFC Eligibility Guide

VFC Providers are responsible for ensuring VFC vaccines are administered only to VFC eligible patients. Below is a quick guide to help identify VFC eligible patients.

The reverse side of this form highlights the differences between CHIP insurance cards and Medicaid insurance cards.

Please take note of these differences and use this guide as a reference in your practice to confirm VFC eligibility prior to any vaccine administration.

How do we screen for VFC eligibility?

- Patient VFC eligibility screening must occur at every visit
 - o Documentation of screening must be present in the patient chart.
 - VFC recommends use of the VFC screening form (available at <https://kids.phila.gov>) or a photocopy of the current insurance card.
 - Any changes to insurance status must be documented in the patient chart.
- Providers must maintain a record (paper or electronic) of VFC eligibility screening for at least three (3) years after the last administered VFC vaccine
 - o The screening record must be readily available, whether electronic or paper, in the provider's office.
 - o After three (3) years have passed, these records may be archived.

Who is VFC Eligible?

Children are eligible for VFC vaccines if they are 0 through 18 years of age and are at least one of the following:

- **Uninsured**
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native**
- **Medicaid eligible**
 - o If a child under 19 years of age is insured through Medicaid and has private insurance, he or she is VFC eligible, but if VFC vaccines are administered, private insurance cannot be billed for the vaccine.
- **Underinsured**
 - o Children who have private insurance that does not cover immunizations are not eligible to receive VFC vaccines from private providers but may be referred to public VFC sites such as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Philadelphia District Health Centers.
 - o Alternatively, these children may receive privately purchased vaccines in private provider offices as self-pay patients.

Who is Not VFC Eligible?

- **Children who are insured through the Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**
 - o These children are considered to be privately insured and should be given vaccine from your privately purchased stock.
 - They should never be referred to an FQHC for vaccines.
- **Privately insured patients**
- **Children who have health insurance that covers all or a percent of the cost of one or more vaccines**
 - o They are considered to be insured for the purposes of the VFC program.

Philadelphia CHIP vs. Medicaid Insurance Cards: What to Look For?

CHIP

Medicaid

CHIP patients are **not** VFC eligible. You must use privately purchased vaccine stock for these patients.

Medicaid patients are VFC eligible. VFC stock vaccines can be used for these patients.

Insurance Cards

Medicaid Insurance Cards



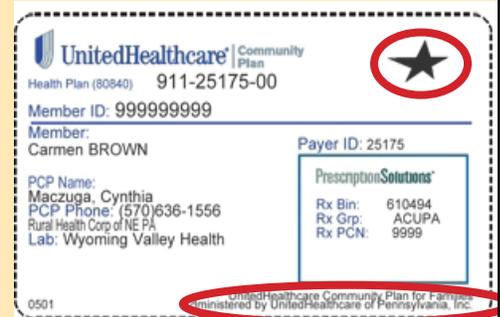
United Healthcare

CHIP:

- No “star” logo
- Bottom right hand corner states, “...for Kids”

Medicaid:

- May or may not have a “star” logo
- Bottom right hand corner states, “...for Families”



United Healthcare Community Plan for Families.

United Healthcare Community Plan for Kids.



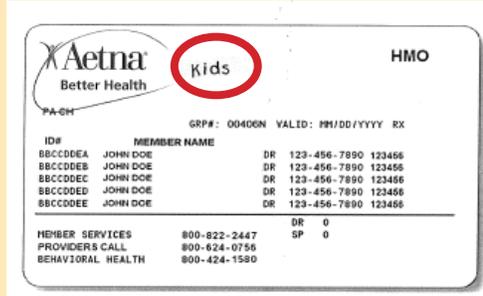
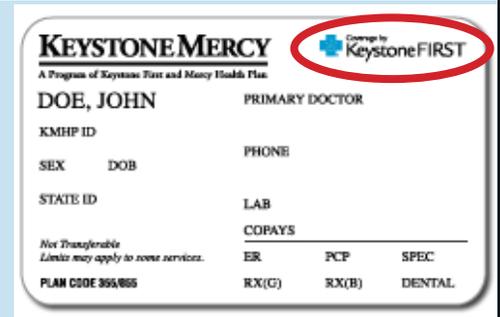
Independence Blue Cross

CHIP:

- “PA Kids” logo

Medicaid:

- “Keystone FIRST” logo



Aetna Better Health

CHIP:

- “Kids” logo

Medicaid:

- No logo



Health Partners

CHIP :

- “Kidz Partners”

Medicaid:

- “Health Partners”



No CHIP program for Coventry Health Care

