

## **Immunization Billables Request for Letter of Interest**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is seeking Letters of Interest for contractors to provide all recommended pediatric vaccines and insurance billing services (e.g., credentialing, contracting, billing, troubleshooting of denied claims) and provide the local health department with a set administration fee. This company would initially enter into agreements with a select number of local health districts, as a pilot, to provide these services. Under this plan, ODH would not be responsible for supplying vaccines to the local health department for privately-insured patients. However, ODH will continue to supply VFC, 317, and state General Revenue Fund (GRF) vaccines.

### **Introduction and Background**

In 2009, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Immunization Program received funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to develop an action plan identifying how Ohio local health departments could begin billing private third-party insurance plans for immunizations provided to plan participants. This grant has provided ODH with valuable information regarding the current third-party billing landscape among Ohio local health departments, as well as information on the clients accessing public health for vaccines.

The federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides all vaccines recommended by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to children through age 18 years who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, or underinsured (i.e., insurance does not cover vaccines, vaccine benefits are capped, or some vaccines are specifically not covered). However, due to a lack of both federal and state vaccine funding, all other patients presenting to a local health department are unable to receive all ACIP recommended vaccines. In Ohio, this “two-tiered” system exists for Rotavirus, Human Papillomavirus, and Hepatitis A vaccines. Since there is little expectation that additional vaccine funding will be secured, an alternative plan is necessary to fully protect patients with high deductible health plans.

A survey performed in local health departments during summer 2010 indicates that approximately 44% of patients attending local health department clinics for vaccine services have private insurance. By beginning to bill insurance plans for these patients, the vaccine reimbursements obtained may provide the additional funding needed to move Ohio away from the “two-tiered” system.

### **Eligible Contractors**

Organizations desiring to submit a letter of interest must have the ability to accomplish the following:

1. Provide all recommended childhood vaccines to participating local health districts (approximately three as part of the initial pilot)

2. Provide billing services (e.g., credentialing, contracting, billing, troubleshooting of denied claims) for local health districts for patients insured by private insurance companies in Ohio, by billing insurance companies directly.
3. Provide the local health department with a set administration fee.

ODH will continue to supply VFC, federal 317, and state General Revenue Fund (GRF) purchased vaccines.

### **Letters of Interest**

Organizations interested in learning more about this opportunity should submit a letter of interest by Monday, August 22, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. to:

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