

**Vermont Vaccine Purchasing Pool Pilot Program
Immunization Advisory Committee Meeting
December 11, 2012 12pm
Minutes and Responses**

<u>Vermont Dept of Health</u> : Tracy Dolan, Bessie Weiss, Patsy Kelso, Christine Finley, Amanda LaScala, GERALYN Shelvey <u>Dept of Vermont Health Access</u> Jennifer Egelhof <u>MVP Healthcare</u> Lou McLaren Elizabeth Schneider	<u>Cigna Healthcare</u> Ann Collins Patrick Gillespie <u>Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont</u> Pam Biron Sharon Winn
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Vermont Vaccine Purchasing Pool – Recap of FFY12

Act 157 – Extended the Pilot program to 12/31/14.

Vaccine spending for 2012 was \$614,120 more than anticipated due to: higher immunization rates, changes in HPV recommendations to include males, increased vaccine costs and introduction of Zostavax® to the Vermont formulary.

FFY2013 Estimated Vaccine Costs

Per CDC, as of October 1, 2012, 317 vaccine funds can not be used in any insured population. To meet this end, vaccine assessments will need to include pediatric and adult costs, separately. Insurers will still receive one invoice, quarterly.

Evaluation of the Pilot program

VPQHC was retained to perform an evaluation of the Pilot program in three parts:

1. Review strengths of other states' vaccine purchasing pools.
2. Conduct key informant interviews with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, MVP Healthcare and Cigna.
3. Recommend a method of assessing insurer costs.

Committee members received Part 1 and 2 of the evaluation. Part 3 has not been received by the Immunization Program yet. It was noted that there is a need to clarify with VPQ if the reports are final and can be made public.

Updated Response: For Part 1 or 2 of the VPQ Evaluation, if there is something that you feel needs correction or clarification, please identify and submit directly to Liz Winterbauer at VPQHC e-mail: Elizabethw@vpqhc.org When finalized, the watermark will be removed and final documents will be sent to all committee members.

Discussion of Part 2 of the evaluation identified that the insurers did not use a common methodology when assessing their costs as part of the Pilot program. Ann C. will look into whether or not Cigna included claims with a \$0.00.

Problem: The VHCURES data report used to determine market share for annual assessments is not current enough to reflect open enrollment shifts. A key challenge is that TPA's are unable to recoup costs from contracts that are no longer in place.

Proposed solution: The Immunization Program proposed that insurers would be allowed to submit subscriber numbers (and dependants), as of January 1st, directly to the Health Department in lieu of using VHCURES data. Validation of submission could occur through VHCURES. BCBSVT, Cigna and MVP are required to submit monthly to VHCURES and do not want to duplicate reporting requirements. VDH to revisit determination of covered lives methodology.

Updated Response: After a careful review of the VHCURES data submission timelines it has been determined that the billing cycle would not be able to meet the ongoing demands for funding to support the monthly purchase of vaccines ordered by enrolled providers.

The Immunization Program has determined that the following will provide ongoing funding while addressing concerns regarding enrollment changes. We are tentatively planning to implement the following:

- *Use the current methodology to assess fees for the first six months of the year (Jan-June) based on the report from July 2011-June 2012.*
- *In July 2013, use the newly available VHCURES data for January-March 2013 to determine 2013 costs. Reconcile any changes by insurer prior to sending out 2nd invoice for 2013.*
- *Invoices will be for six months only and will be sent by January 31 and July 31. Payment will be due 30 days following.*

Next Steps

1. VDH will continue outreach to providers to enroll in VFA; VDH cannot require that providers participate.
2. Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey, 2012: preliminary data available in Jan 2013 per DFR. This will be used to determine insurer assessments for 2014.
3. Reconciliation documents for 2012 were mailed December 31, 2012.