

VFC Update 7/1/16

Section 317 Instructions

Hepatitis A vaccine can be given to uninsured and underinsured adults who are:

1. Healthcare personnel and need the vaccination for employment
2. Caregivers who have contact with infants less than 12 months of age, or
3. Outbreak control (Outbreak control will also cover fully insured adults, but only if it is considered an outbreak by the Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) Bureau of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention.)

Just to clarify, "Caregivers" could be anyone who provides daily care, such as day care workers, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc., to an infant who is under the age of 12 months. Many day care workers will be uninsured or underinsured. A lot of food service workers need the hepatitis A vaccine in order to work in the food industry and these food service workers are probably uninsured or underinsured adults who have an infant under the age of 12 months.

Ideas to use the hepatitis A vaccine:

- **Call or send out information to the day cares and food establishments in your jurisdiction to let workers know they might qualify for a free hepatitis A vaccine. Go to those day cares and food establishments to administer vaccine ensuring the proper cold chain is followed.**
- **Call or send out information to technical schools and colleges in your jurisdiction to let teachers and students know that this vaccine is available to uninsured and underinsured adult healthcare personnel who need the vaccination for employment.**

PCV13 (Pneumococcal Conjugate) can be given to uninsured and underinsured adults who are:

1. Over the age of 65 years, or
2. Immunocompromised adults, not including adults with chronic heart disease, chronic lung disease, chronic liver disease, or diabetes.

Ideas to use the PCV13 vaccine:

- **Call or send information to the senior centers, food pantries, homeless shelters, etc., in your jurisdiction to let them know the people who patronize these places might qualify for a free PCV13 vaccine. Go to those places to administer vaccine, following the proper cold chain.**

The following vaccine can be given to **ANY** uninsured or underinsured adult simply upon the individual's request:

1. Hepatitis B
2. Hepatitis A/B (Twinrix)
3. HPV
4. Influenza
5. MMR
6. Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY)
7. Pneumococcal (PPSV-23)
8. Tdap
9. Td
10. Varicella
11. Zoster (60 years of age and older)



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Ideas to use these vaccines:

- Call or send information to colleges, health clinics, day cares, food establishments, lodging establishments, food pantries, homeless shelters, or any place that might employ or have a congregation of uninsured or underinsured adults to let them know about the free vaccines.
- Schedule clinics at these locations.
- Attend/host health fairs to vaccinate uninsured and underinsured adults with 317 vaccine, following the proper cold chain.
- PPSV23 (Pneumovax) can be given to any uninsured and underinsured adult who is:
 - Over the age of 65 years, or
 - Adults aged 19 through 64 years with chronic heart disease (including congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathies, excluding hypertension), chronic lung disease (including chronic obstructive lung disease, emphysema, and asthma), chronic liver disease (including cirrhosis), alcoholism, or diabetes mellitus, or who smoke cigarettes.
- Zoster vaccine may be administered to any uninsured or underinsured adult who is 60 years of age or older.

The above listed vaccine can be given to **fully insured adults in these instances:**

1. Household contacts of hepatitis B infected individuals, or
2. Outbreak response (outbreak must be declared by DHSS Bureau of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention or CDC, or
3. Post-exposure prophylaxis, or
4. Disaster relief efforts (if a disaster in your jurisdiction has been declared by the Governor), or
5. Mass vaccination campaign or exercises as approved by DHSS Bureau of Immunizations, or
6. Individuals in correctional facilities and jails if those institutions don't carry the vaccines and the individual's immunization record shows the vaccine is needed.

Ideas to use the vaccines:

- Go to the correctional facilities and jails in your jurisdiction if those institutions don't carry the vaccines and the individual's immunization record shows they need the vaccine. Proper cold chain must be maintained.
- When an individual comes to the health department with a wound and needs the tetanus vaccine. This would be post-exposure prophylaxis and Td or Tdap (Tdap is preferred to be given if the individual has never received Tdap) can be given to a fully insured individual in this instance.
- When DHSS Bureau of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention has declared that an individual has been exposed to someone with a vaccine preventable disease, that individual who has been exposed can receive the vaccine which is available in the Section 317 policy. This would be post-exposure prophylaxis and the corresponding vaccine can be given to a fully insured individual in this instance.

Medicaid, Medicare-vaccines covered or not?

According to the Missouri Department of Social Services, MOHealthNet Division, Medicaid ME 82 (Rx only) and ME 80 or 89 (Family Planning Waiver) do not cover vaccines (unless the individual is a pregnant woman) so



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those adults **would not be insured for vaccines through Medicaid**, so they would qualify for Section 317 vaccines because they would be underinsured adults.

Medicare Part A only covers hospital stays, so an individual with only Medicare Part A is not covered for vaccinations so they are **underinsured** for vaccinations and could receive Section 317 vaccine.

Medicare Part B only covers the hepatitis B vaccine for high-risk individuals, Tdap/Td for wounds, flu and both pneumococcal vaccines. If an individual only has Medicare Part B, that individual is only covered for those vaccines. That **individual is underinsured** for all the other vaccines and can receive Section 317 vaccine.

Medicare Part D should cover all vaccines not covered by Part B. You can call Part D plan information by calling 1-800-MEDICARE to find out if an individual's Part D plan covers the vaccine. If it does not cover the vaccine, that individual is underinsured and can have Section 317 vaccine. If Part D covers that vaccine, then the individual would be fully insured.

How do I know if an individual who wants to be vaccinated is insured or not?

If you ask the individual if they are insured and they answer that they do not have insurance, then you document them as uninsured and give them Section 317 vaccine. DHSS does not need proof of an individual being uninsured. You can ask them to sign the documentation that they are uninsured.

How do I know if an individual with insurance and who wants to be vaccinated, has insurance that covers that vaccine?

If you ask the individual if their insurance covers vaccines and they answer that it does not cover vaccine, then you document them as underinsured and give them Section 317 vaccine. DHSS does not need proof that you called or tried to find out if that insurance covers vaccine. If your office procedure requires you to call the insurance company to inquire about insurance, then call the insurance company, but if after a reasonable period of time (about 30 minutes), you are still not able to find out if the insurance covers vaccine, then it is best to err on the side of public health and consider that person underinsured, so document that they are underinsured and give the individual Section 317 vaccine. You can ask them to sign the documentation that they are underinsured.

Please refer to the ACIP General Recommendations on Immunization and the current CDC Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for guidance. (The Immunization Schedule indicates the administration of which currently licensed vaccines are commonly recommended for adults 19 years of age and older. The recommendations must be read with the footnotes included in the schedule.)

