

## **Pennsylvania Immunization Program 317 Vaccine Policy**

Vaccine funded under section 317 of Title 42 of the Public Services Code, (42 U.S.C.A. § 247b) (section 317) is funded as part of the Vaccines for Children Program, and can be used by Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, County Municipal Health Departments, State Health Centers and other sites authorized by the Pennsylvania Immunization Program to vaccinate section 317-eligible populations according to the guidelines below. All eligibility must be documented in the patient's record and saved for three years in accordance with program requirements.

**Adults ages 19 and up are eligible for section 317 vaccines if they meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- Are uninsured, i.e., have no health insurance; or
- Are underinsured. This includes a someone who has health insurance but whose coverage does not include vaccines, or whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (317 eligible for non-covered vaccines only).

**Other situations in which a person might qualify for section 317 funded vaccines:**

- Newborns receiving the birth dose of hepatitis B prior to hospital discharge that are covered under bundled delivery or global delivery package (no routine services can be individually billed) that does not include hepatitis B vaccine (Referred to in Pennsylvania as the Tot Trax Program).
- Individuals in correctional facilities and jails.
- Vaccines for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients: Any vaccines required for transplant recipients may be section 317-funded, as indicated in chapter 2 of Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases.
- Fully insured individuals seeking vaccines during public health response activities including:
  - Outbreak response
  - Post-exposure prophylaxis
  - Disaster relief efforts
  - Mass vaccination campaigns or exercises for public health preparedness

These situations must be approved by the Pennsylvania Immunization Program.

**Vaccines for Leisure Travel:** Leisure travelers – including religious missionaries or civic volunteers – are **not** eligible for any section 317-funded vaccines.

**Charges and Fees for Immunization of the section 317-Eligible Clients**

- The reimbursement rate set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of \$23.14 per dose (not per antigen) may be charged for the administration of vaccine to Pennsylvania section 317-eligible patients.
- Providers may not exceed the CMS reimbursement rate when determining administration fees for section 317-eligible adults.
- Healthcare providers who bill for the vaccine administration fee for a non-Medicaid, 317-eligible adult after the date of service may issue only a single bill to the patient within 90 days of vaccine administration.
- The reimbursement rates set by contracted medical health plans may be charged for the administration of vaccine to adults with private health insurance coverage for immunizations (per dose or per antigen).

- Providers may not deny administration of section 317-supplied vaccine to an established patient because of the child's parent's, guardian's or the patient's inability to pay the administration fee. In addition, unclaimed vaccine administration fees cannot be sent to collections. Therefore, healthcare providers must establish a process to waive unpaid vaccine administration fees.
- Providers may not charge the patient or insurance for the cost of any section 317-supplied vaccines.