

Ohio Department of Health Vaccines for Children (VFC) Vaccine Restitution Policy – January 1, 2015

Overview

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is issuing a revised restitution policy, based on a directive provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The effective date of this policy is January 1, 2015 and replaces any previous issued policies (i.e. Vaccine Handling and Wastage Policy dated April 2, 2012). ODH is responsible for determining when a VFC provider must replace lost doses, identify typical situations that require restitution, and set reasonable thresholds for when the policy should apply. CDC no longer allows dollar for dollar restitution for wasted vaccine. VFC providers will have to replace vaccine at the current open market price.

For the purposes of this policy, wasted vaccine is defined as vaccine that is deemed non-viable by ODH or the vaccine manufacturers due to improper vaccine storage, improper vaccine handling, preventable vaccine expiration, or erroneous vaccine disposal.

Policy

Upon notification or discovery, each suspect incident of vaccine wastage will be investigated by the ODH VFC program to determine: 1) if vaccine was wasted; and 2) if the VFC provider must replace the non-viable vaccine due to vaccine mismanagement. Within 30 days upon receipt of vaccine viability determination, ODH will issue a written response to the VFC provider summarizing the vaccine mismanagement incident, and indicating corrective actions for vaccine restitution, including:

- List of identified non-viable vaccine to be replaced dose-for-dose.
- Instructions to replace vaccines dose-for-dose and document vaccine replacement.
- Requirement to replace non-viable vaccine within 90 days from the receipt of the ODH letter.

VFC providers who fail to replace the vaccine may be terminated from the VFC program and referred to the Federal Medicaid Integrity Group for further investigation.

The VFC provider will be allowed to order additional VFC vaccine when vaccine restitution is completed and documented by ODH. ODH will notify the provider when restitution is complete. ODH reserves the right to manage all situations on a case-by-case basis.

For additional information, VFC providers should refer to Ohio's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Manual & Forms.