

MEMO

Change in Hepatitis B Vaccine Supply Policy for VFC-Enrolled Birthing Facilities

January 24, 2025

North Dakota Prevention Partnership Providers,

Starting July 1, 2025, there will be a policy change in how hepatitis B vaccines are supplied to VFC-enrolled birthing facilities. Previously the North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS) immunization unit was able to use a federal discretionary vaccine budget to provide hepatitis B vaccines to insured infants born at enrolled birthing facilities in North Dakota. Recently a policy change at the federal VFC program requires states to discontinue using these funds for the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine for insured infants. Hepatitis B vaccine will continue to be supplied by ND HHS at no charge to enrolled facilities for use in VFC-eligible (Medicaid-eligible, American Indian/Alaskan Native, uninsured and underinsured) infants. Starting July 1, 2025, birthing facilities will need to use privately purchased hepatitis B vaccine for use in insured infants. Education of staff including the importance of VFC eligibility screening to determine which stock (public vs. private) of vaccine to use and accurate data entry into electronic medical records and/or the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) will be imperative as we work to make this policy change. Additionally, as we approach July 1, 2025, birthing hospitals should reduce hepatitis B vaccine orders to ND HHS.

The ND HHS immunization unit also provides Nirsevimab, a monoclonal antibody, for administration to VFC-eligible infants.

ND HHS values birthing facilities participation in the VFC program in protecting some of our most vulnerable citizens at birth against hepatitis B and RSV. For questions on the policy change please email vaccine@nd.gov.