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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 94 LCM-131

Date: October 31, 1994

Division: Health & Long Term
Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

ATTACHMENTS: Brochure: "NY VFC - Vaccines at no Cost to Providers"
(Not Available On-Line)

The purpose of this LCM is to inform you of a new federal program, The Vaccines for Children Program, intended to improve childhood immunization levels nationwide. The New York Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was implemented October 1, 1994. New York's VFC Program provides free vaccines to VFC registered providers for immunization of children from birth through age 18 who are Medicaid enrolled, uninsured, underinsured (insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations), Native American and all those receiving vaccine at a county health department.

Physician, nurse practitioner and clinic providers are eligible for this Program. They receive the free vaccines by registering with the VFC Program and ordering vaccines for eligible children through the Program. When the VFC registered provider is also a Medicaid provider, Medicaid pays the provider an administration fee for each eligible vaccine claim. For children not Medicaid eligible, the VFC registered provider may charge an administration fee but may not refuse to immunize due to the responsible party's inability to pay.

Currently, Medicaid pays providers for vaccine costs plus a small amount for the immunization. During the six months from October 1, 1994 through March 31, 1995 Medicaid will continue to accept provider override on claims for VFC - covered vaccines while providers use up supplies of vaccines. This program, by giving free vaccines to VFC registered providers, will result in a cost savings for the provision of childhood immunizations.

The attached pamphlet will provide you with further pertinent information. Questions about VFC may be directed to Joan Zenitz, Bureau of Primary Care, at 1-800-343-8859, extension 4-2264, (OA User ID 89M007), or to VFC at 1-800 KID-SHOTS (1-800-543-7468).

Sue Kelly
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Health and Long Term Care