

August 10, 2012

Dear (Private Physician),

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is implementing changes to Section 317 policy. Beginning October 1, 2012, Section 317 vaccine may not be used for routine vaccination of any fully insured individual. The CDC defines fully insured as:

Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

In order to assure that 317 vaccine remains available for those who truly have no other option, it is important that all fully insured children are vaccinated with vaccines purchased through their insurance. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program will continue to serve eligible children and adolescents.

This 317 policy change, which specifies that Section 317 vaccines should not be used for routine vaccination of fully-insured children, adolescents and adults, affects both the public and private sectors. Private physicians who have been referring their patients to public health clinics for routine vaccination will need to consider how to meet the preventive care needs of their fully insured patients because the health department will no longer be able to vaccinate fully insured individuals, except in a few limited cases, such as an infant born to a Hepatitis B infected mother or during public health response activities. Similarly, insurance providers will need to ensure adequate in-network providers to vaccinate all of the individuals covered under their plans.

For more information regarding this policy change, contact the _____ County Health Department at _____ or the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance at 800.219.3224.

Sincerely,

Local Health Dept.