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To: PCPs & IPAs
From: IEHP – Quality
Date: February 12, 2026
Subject: **Pediatric Immunization Guidelines and Coverage**

IEHP remains committed to supporting you and your patients as immunization guidelines evolve. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated recommendations for pediatric immunizations. Changes include separate recommendations for (1) all children, (2) for children in certain high-risk groups, and (3) based on shared clinical decision-making. We understand that these changes may cause confusion for you and the families you care for, so we are providing this update to clarify coverage and expectations.

What does this mean for you?

- **For your practice and IEHP Members, there are no changes at this time to immunization coverage or expectations.** Continue to order recommended vaccines for your office, engage in shared decision-making conversations with patients and their caregivers, and encourage immunizations based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations for your patients.
- Under current guidance, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has affirmed Medi-Cal coverage for vaccines and immunizations in accordance with CA Assembly Bill 144, including vaccines recommended by CDC and professional bodies such as AAP.
- Under current DHCS and federal guidance, the recent CDC schedule changes do not change eligibility for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program or IEHP's coverage of recommended vaccines for eligible Members. All immunizations that were recommended by the CDC as of January 1, 2025, and that remain recommended by CDC and/or AAP, continue to be available and covered with no cost-sharing for eligible IEHP Members, consistent with Medi-Cal and VFC program rules.

In accordance with DHCS guidance, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule should be accessed for reference

<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>

We are monitoring guidance from IEHP's regulatory agencies regarding potential impacts on Pay for Performance (P4P) metrics and quality improvement programs. We will communicate any changes promptly and provide resources for you and your practice.

This communication offers general information about coverage and quality expectations but does not alter benefit terms, regulatory requirements, or clinical standards, which may change over time.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the health and well-being of IEHP Members.

If you have any questions, please contact the IEHP Provider Call Center at (909) 890-2054, (866) 223-4347 or email ProviderServices@iehp.org

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