

ACTION STEP WORKSHEET

Action Title: Improve Vaccine Product Management

Description: Currently, physicians and health agencies that participate in the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) are expected to segregate and separately store vaccine products purchased via the VFC Program. This means the physician or agency must purchase additional supplies of vaccine products for those patients who are not eligible for VFC products, i.e., patients who are covered by third party health insurance or other forms of payment. This system requires additional storage capacity and in some situations may result in waste because of the inability to co-mingle and manage inventories.

Rationale: While the product purchased via the VFC Program may be priced lower than the same product purchased directly from a retail distributor, the two products are medically equivalent. There is no reason the physician or agency should not co-mingle inventories in order to efficiently rotate supply and avoid expiration of products. Accountability for VFC products can be based on units rather than lot numbers.

Strategy supported (refer to the IKK strategies):

1. Expand opportunities for children to receive immunizations through a 'medical home'.
4. Promote policies, regulations and environmental changes that increase access to and utilization of immunization services.

Expected Outcomes: Improved willingness of physicians to offer immunizations to patients and willingness to participate in the VFC Program.

Proposed evaluation methods: Measuring the number of VFC providers in Kansas. Satisfaction surveys of immunization providers conducted after implementation of any changes.

Challenges: Overcoming established negative attitudes about "hassles" associated with vaccine inventory management and the VFC Program. Ability to elicit support from other state health officials and persuade officials at the CDC. Avenues for bringing the issue to national attention could include ASTHO,

NACCHO, AIM, CSTE, AMA, AAFP, AAP, AOA, APHA, and ANA. The Kansas Congressional delegation could also be approached.

Resource Requirements: KDHE staff time

Commitments for Implementation:

<i>Participant Organization and Name</i>	<i>Suggested Organization and Name</i>
KDHE	
KMA	
KAAP	
KAFP	
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine	
KPHA	
Kansas State Nurses Association	