

2023 Program Quality Criteria

Immunization

Generally high program quality criteria for the delivery of quality and cost-effective administration of health care programs have been, and will continue to be, required in each public health program to be operated under the terms of this contract. Contractees should indicate the manner in which they will assure each criterion is met for this program. These criteria include:

Assessment and surveillance of public health to identify community needs and to support systematic, competent program planning and sound policy development with activities focused at both the individual and community levels.

- a. Contractees must assure reported vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) are investigated and controlled as detailed in the most current edition of the Wisconsin Disease Surveillance Manual (EPINET) and/or written disease-specific guidance from DPH (e.g. Pertussis Guidelines). Local health departments (LHDs) should maintain regular contact with local required reporters of VPDs to encourage and assure prompt reporting. Contractees should solicit the help of the Wisconsin Immunization Program when needed to help assure that an adequate system is in place to report and investigate VPD. This includes the follow-up of infants born to HBsAg-positive women. The LHD where the woman resides is responsible for follow-up activities.
- b. Contractees must annually and formally evaluate immunization delivery and the use of vaccine preventable disease surveillance systems and improve the use of those systems [e.g., the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)] in their jurisdictions, where needed.
- c. Contractees must work in collaboration with the Wisconsin Immunization Program to increase the use of existing electronic data collection systems for vaccine record keeping and vaccine preventable disease data systems.

Delivery of public health services to citizens by qualified health professionals in a manner that is family-centered, culturally-competent, equitable and consistent with the best practices; and delivery of public health programs for communities for the improvement of health status.

- a. Contractees must assure the delivery of immunization services in a safe, effective and efficient manner, as detailed in the Wisconsin Immunization Program Policy and Procedure Manual and in Chapter 252, Wis. Statutes and Chapter DHS 145, Wis. Admin. Code. Contractees must assure the immunization of children is consistent with Healthy People 2020 goals.

Record keeping for individual-focused services that assure documentation and tracking of client health care needs, response to known health care problems on a timely basis, and confidentiality of client information.

- a. Contractees must use the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) or an electronic immunization population-based data system that links with the WIR. The data system must have a tracking and recall function to identify children whose immunization records are behind schedule according to the ACIP recommendations. Tracking and recall shall be conducted at least every other month as required by the Wisconsin Immunization Policy and Procedure Manual.
- b. Contractee's immunization practice must assure the immunization of children and share children's immunization records with parents or guardians, schools and child care centers and other healthcare providers as provided by the Wisconsin School Immunization Law (Chapter 252, Wis. Statutes; Chapters DHS 144 and 145, Wis. Admin. Code).

Information, education, and outreach programs intended to address known health risks in the general and certain target populations to encourage appropriate decision making by those at risk and to affect policy and environmental changes at the community level.

- a. Contractees must engage in community partnerships to identify and address the needs of high-risk populations, reduce racial and ethnic health disparities and to educate families and the community on the importance of immunizations.
- b. Contractees should engage in improving health literacy for the public and for the healthcare personnel working with immunizations to better understand, evaluate, and communicate immunization information.

Coordination with related programs to assure that identified public health needs are addressed in a comprehensive, cost-effective manner across programs and throughout the community.

- a. Contractees must coordinate public and private immunization services with local child healthcare (service) providers [e.g., Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) projects; Medical Assistance programs; and other local public health programs] to assess the immunization status of, refer, and provide immunization services to under-immunized children.

A referral network sufficient to assure the accessibility and timely provision of services to address identified public healthcare needs.

- a. Contractees must develop relationships among public and private healthcare providers to facilitate access by children and families to immunization services. Contractees should work with these providers to assure that current immunization guidelines are followed.
- b. The LHD should promote the medical home concept by referring vaccine recipients to their medical home provider for subsequent immunizations and coordinate with this medical provider to assure adherence to the recommended immunization schedule.
- c. LHDs should promote the exchange and sharing of immunization data using immunization registries.
- d. The LHD will assure adequate surveillance, prompt reporting and epidemiologic follow-up of vaccine preventable diseases. When prompt reporting of a vaccine preventable disease does not occur, the LPHD will formally address the issue with the reporting agency to assure that reports are made according to the latest EPINet Manual.

Provision of guidance to staff through program and policy manuals and other means sufficient to assure quality health care and cost-effective program administration.

- a. Contractees will ensure program staff is competent in current immunization program policy and processes, including that provided through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distance learning course and CDC updates.
- b. The LHD will follow the Immunization Policy and Procedure Manual developed and distributed by the Wisconsin Immunization Program, unless otherwise agreed upon, as well as immunization policy memos periodically issued by the Program. The LHD must have written policies on the proper handling and storage of state-supplied vaccines as required by the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. These policies must be reviewed with all immunization program-related staff on at least an annual basis.
- c. Contractees will require at least one staff member to view the perinatal hepatitis B training webinar.

Financial management practices sufficient to assure accurate eligibility determination, appropriate use of state and federal funds, prompt and accurate billing and payment for services provided and purchased, accurate expenditure reporting, and, when required, pursuit of third-party insurance and Medical Assistance Program coverage of services provided.

- a. Billing for payment of childhood immunization services is not required under this section.
- b. LHDs must assure that parents of children who are on Medical Assistance will not be charged a vaccine administration fee or be requested to make a donation for vaccine or vaccine-related services. Administration fees cannot be mandatory and clients must be informed that failure to pay the administration fee or make a donation does not preclude them from receiving state-supplied vaccine. This information must be added to immunization advertising materials used by the LHD for state-supplied vaccines. The message must be given to the client in a way and in a language the client understands.
- c. Grantees must screen for insurance eligibility in accordance with current DPH guidelines for state-supplied vaccines.

Data collection, analysis, and reporting to assure program outcome goals are met or to identify program management problems that need to be addressed.

- a. Contractees must collect and analyze agency and available private provider immunization data for children 12-35 months of age, school immunization law reports and other available population-based information needed to identify strengths and weaknesses in local delivery systems and plan improvements. Only children who have moved out of the agency's jurisdiction may be removed from the cohort for analysis.
- b. LHDs will utilize the WIR for immunization-level data analysis.
- c. LHDs and Tribes will assure staff competence with the WIR system. LHD and Tribal health staff must attend at least one Regional WIR User Group Meetings. Attendance at these meetings is necessary for staff to maintain a thorough working knowledge of the functionality of the WIR.