

## Universal Vaccine Purchasing Program Information for Providers

Beginning July 1, 2009, Washington will no longer be a universal vaccine purchase state for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil®. As a result, children with private health insurance are no longer eligible for state-supplied HPV vaccine. Premera is working to help ease the burden of these recent budget decisions. Starting July 1, 2009, providers will have the option of obtaining the HPV vaccine through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy.

Question	Answer
<b>1. What is the Universal Vaccine Purchasing Program?</b>	Since 1990, Washington state maintained a State Supplied (Universal) Vaccine Program for children. The program provided free vaccines to children 19-years and under, through a combination of federal and state funds. Providers who chose to participate could obtain free vaccines through the State by enrolling in the program.
<b>2. What is changing and when?</b>	The Washington State Legislature approved the 2009-2011 budget which reduces, then eliminates, <u>state</u> funding for the State Supplied Vaccine Program. The timeframe for these impacts is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As of July 1, 2009, Washington will no longer be a universal vaccine purchase state for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil®. This means children with private health insurance are no longer eligible for state-supplied HPV Vaccine after July 1, 2009.</li> <li>▪ Beginning May 1, 2010 (or when state funds exhausted) the State Supplied Vaccine Program will be eliminated. This means that children with private health insurance will no longer be eligible for any state supplied vaccines after May 1, 2010. The state will continue to use federal funds to provide vaccines for children with Medicaid or who do not have private health insurance.</li> </ul>
<b>3. How does this change impact Premera?</b>	Premera has in the past provided coverage and payment, subject to benefits, when billed for immunization services. We anticipate a significant increase in cost and utilization to Premera and all commercial payers who must now reimburse providers for the cost of the vaccines previously supported by the state program.
<b>4. How does this action impact providers?</b>	Providers must order, stock and bill the health plan for HPV Vaccine for privately-insured patients.
<b>5. How is Premera supporting providers as a result of this impact?</b>	To ease the potential burden caused by the changes to the Universal Vaccine Purchasing program, Premera has partnered with Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy to provide an option for providers to order the HPV Vaccine and have it shipped directly to their office to administer to their patients. Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy will bill Premera directly for the vaccine for that patient.

Question	Answer
<p><b>6. What are the providers' options to purchase the HPV vaccine?</b></p>	<p>Starting July 1, 2009, providers will have the choice to either purchase the vaccine through their own sources or use the services of Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy to order the HPV Vaccine and have it shipped directly to their office to administer to their specific patients. When choosing to use Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, the pharmacy will bill Premera directly for the vaccine for that patient.</p>
<p><b>7. If a provider chooses to order the HPV Vaccine through their own source, how will they be reimbursed?</b></p>	<p>Premera will pay providers for both the vaccine and administration of the vaccine according to the provider's specific contracted rate.</p>
<p><b>8. If a provider chooses to order the HPV vaccine through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, what should they do?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providers should contact Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy at: <b>1-877-223-6447</b>.</li> <li>▪ Walgreens will require a form to be completed which collects the provider's demographics. After the initial set-up, future requests will not require the form.</li> <li>▪ Request HPV Vaccine (Gardasil®) for a specific patient and specify date of delivery.</li> <li>▪ Gardasil will be safely delivered to their office on the arranged date.</li> <li>▪ Walgreens will bill Premera directly for the vaccine for that patient. There will be no charge to them for this service.</li> <li>▪ The provider will continue to bill Premera for the administration, as has been customary all along.</li> </ul> <p><b>Important considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Orders will only be eligible for a specific patient and date of service. Affixed to each order will be a patient specific Rx label which should assist with inventory management.</li> <li>▪ Each dose in the HPV vaccine series has to be ordered separately. Walgreens will be contacting you prior to the appropriate dosing interval to arrange for delivery of the subsequent doses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Are there other vaccines available through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy?</b></p>	<p>No. At this time, only the HPV vaccine will be available through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy.</p>
<p><b>10. Where can providers find more information about changes to Universal Vaccine Purchasing?</b></p>	<p>There is extensive information available on the Washington State Department of Health web site:  <a href="http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/providers/universal.htm">http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/providers/universal.htm</a></p>