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# WISCONSIN MEDICAID UPDATE

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DECEMBER 4, 1996

UPDATE 96-46

TO:  
HealthCheck Screeners  
Nurse Practitioners  
Nurse Midwives  
Physician Assistants  
Physicians

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## Varicella Virus Vaccine (Varivax)

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### VFC provides free Varivax effective immediately

You may now obtain Varivax, the vaccine used to protect against chickenpox, through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The VFC supplies free vaccines to private and public health care providers who administer vaccines to eligible children. Eligible children under the VFC program include, among other groups, all Medicaid-eligible children. Recently, all VFC providers received ordering and shipping instructions from the Wisconsin Immunization Program. For more information, contact:

Wisconsin Immunization Program  
Division of Health  
Post Office Box 309  
Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 267-5148

### Wisconsin Medicaid covers Varivax administration fee only beginning January 1, 1997

Since the VFC provides free Varivax, Wisconsin Medicaid covers the administration fee only for Varivax for dates of service on and after January 1, 1997. Wisconsin Medicaid covers Varivax administration when it is

medically necessary. This includes VFC's criteria:

- "The child is 12 months through 5 years of age and does not have a reliable history of chickenpox.
- "The child is 11-12 years of age and does not have a reliable history of chickenpox.
- "The child is less than 19 years of age, does not have a reliable history of chickenpox, and will have close contact with persons at high risk of serious complications from varicella (e.g., vaccine candidate is a household contact of an immunocompromised person)."

### Billing information

You must bill the Varivax administration fee using procedure code 90716. Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 1997, Wisconsin Medicaid will reimburse for the Varivax administration fee only under procedure code 90716. By January 1, 1997, providers will have ample time to order and receive Varivax vaccine through VFC.

Providers receiving VFC Varivax *before* January 1, 1997, must bill Wisconsin Medicaid procedure code 90716 with a charge of \$3, which is the administration fee only.

POH 1540