Overview

- Coverage of vaccines
  - Vaccines for Children program
  - Medicaid-enrolled adults
- Payment for vaccines
- Barriers to access
- Strategies to improve access
**Vaccines for Children Program**

- Vaccines for Children (VFC) program established under Medicaid statute
  - Children under 19 years old who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or an American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Covers all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) without cost sharing
- Vaccines purchased directly by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Fully funded by federal government
  - No charge to states, providers, or beneficiaries for vaccine cost

**Vaccine Coverage for Medicaid-Enrolled Adults**

- Beneficiaries in new adult group receive essential health benefits (EHB) and have mandatory coverage of vaccines without cost sharing
- Vaccine coverage is not mandatory for other adults who are not subject to EHB
  - States do not need to cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines
  - Beneficiaries may have cost sharing
- Vaccines are not covered outpatient drugs under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP)
Adult Vaccine Coverage Varies by State

- All states offered some vaccine coverage for Medicaid-enrolled adults in 2018–2019
  - 24 out of 49 states in recent CDC study covered all ACIP-recommended vaccines
- Section 4106 of Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides incentive to cover all recommended vaccines without cost sharing
  - 1 percentage point increase in federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) on vaccine-related spending
  - 12 out of 44 states in CDC study implemented this option

Medicaid Payment for Vaccines

- Payment to cover vaccine purchase
  - Median payment for 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was $204.87 (ranged from $5.27 to $491.38)
  - Median payment for Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine was $18.09 (ranged from $5.27 to $30.80)
- Payment for administration
  - 41 out of 49 states in recent CDC study make a fee-for-service payment for vaccine administration
  - Median payment for the first dose of an injected vaccine was $13.62 (ranged from $3.72 to $28.18)
Barriers to Access

• Individuals with public insurance generally have lower rates of vaccination than those with private insurance
  – Publicly insured adults had lower vaccination rates for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap), hepatitis A, and hepatitis B

• Lack of mandatory vaccine coverage for some Medicaid-covered adults may lower vaccination rates
  – Medicaid-covered women less likely to receive Tdap and influenza vaccination during pregnancy than those with commercial insurance

• Lower provider payment rates in Medicaid may also contribute to lower vaccination rates
  – Payment rates may not cover providers’ costs

Strategies to Improve Access

• Mandatory coverage
  – Equalize coverage for Medicaid-covered adults

• Additional federal funding
  – FMAP increase (e.g., Section 4106 of ACA)

• Include vaccines in MDRP
  – States must cover vaccines but also get rebates

• Federal purchasing program
  – VFC program
  – Section 317 Immunization Program
  – Operation Warp Speed
Next Steps

- Provide guidance on how to proceed on this topic
- Additional research and analysis
- Develop possible policy options