
Arizona VFC Vaccine Choice Policy

All childhood vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are available through the Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Therefore, VFC providers with a product preference may choose a particular brand as long as it is available through the VFC program. VFC vaccines may be ordered through the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS).

The Vaccine Center will make every attempt to honor provider choice whenever possible, but the following situations might result in limited brand choice:

- ✓ Manufacturing and distribution product availability or shortage
- ✓ Influenza vaccine because the manufacturing and distribution systems established by vaccine manufacturers and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for influenza vaccines requires significant planning to avoid delays
- ✓ New or changing vaccines may not be available immediately upon approval by the VFC program due to procurement processes or due to technical changes or updates to ASIIS that require planning, clinical review and implementation by technology staff
- ✓ Removal of vaccines from availability through the Vaccine Center at the discretion of the Vaccine Center Manager who has such authority

If a brand chosen by a provider is not available (such as a supply shortage), Vaccine Center staff may take the following action under the authority and approval of the Vaccine Center Manager:

- ✓ If an identical vaccine is available, the alternate brand may be shipped without notification (e.g., Pedvaxhib® and Acthib®). Providers are expected to make use of the equivalent vaccine to the best of their abilities until vaccine supplies normalize.
- ✓ If a similar, but not equivalent vaccine is available, the provider will be asked to approve a replacement before any vaccine is shipped (e.g., Cervarix® and Gardasil®).
- ✓ If a combination vaccine becomes unavailable, the provider will be asked to approve a shipment of individual antigen equivalents before the order is placed with CDC.

The Vaccine Center will honor provider preference for packaging (e.g., syringes vs. vials) whenever possible. If syringes become unavailable for an extended period of time, the Vaccine Center will ship vials without notification to the provider. If vials become unavailable for an extended period of time, the Vaccine Center will ship syringes to providers ordering less than 50 doses of vaccine in vials. Providers with vial orders greater than 50 must approve a shipment of syringes as a replacement before the order is placed with CDC.

Anytime a provider chooses to utilize a different brand of vaccine the physician bears the responsibility for using all remaining doses of the “old” vaccine before the expiration date, or safely transferring that vaccine to another active VFC provider. Allowing a vaccine to expire because the provider has chosen to change brands will be considered a failure to properly monitor vaccine, and that provider will be required to replace those expired doses from the Vaccine Center.