



Help Ensure Providers Have Access to All Approved Immunizations

Provider choice means providers decide what immunization is best for their patients.

Provider Choice is an Important Tenant of the US Vaccination System



Providers are best equipped to choose the right vaccine for their patients.

Vaccines that prevent the same disease may have clinical, dosing, and/or presentation differences (e.g., fully-liquid or non-fully-liquid vaccines requiring reconstitution¹). Providers develop individual preferences based on their specialized knowledge and the specific healthcare needs of their patients.



Research indicates that patients are more likely to accept vaccination when given options. When providers stock more than one product or when patients can find a provider offering a vaccine of choice – patients are more likely to be vaccinated.²



Studies show a patient's ability to choose a certain vaccine increases their willingness to be vaccinated.³



Protecting providers' ability to choose from all approved immunizations supports a robust supply chain and safeguards against shortages. Like most medicines, vaccines are vulnerable to shortages when there are fewer available products. However, in the case of immunization supply interruption, the impact could be dire for the health of an individual and their community.⁴

Provider vaccine choice allows providers to make patient-specific decisions, reduces vaccine hesitancy, ensures a robust supply chain, supports health equity, and aligns with the intent of U.S. laws and ACIP recommendations.



Provider choice promotes innovation. When third-parties require providers to use a single vaccine, other products cannot be used when deemed appropriate by the provider. This harms innovation and reduces incentives to develop new products that may target specific patient populations.⁵



Provider choice supports health equity. Certain vaccine products are studied in specific populations, such as immunocompromised patients and racial/ethnic minorities (e.g., American Indian/Alaskan Native children⁶). Limiting provider choice may prevent patients from accessing vaccines that best fit their needs.

ACIP Review and Recommendation Process Supports Provider Choice



In many instances, the ACIP recommends multiple vaccine products as options for immunization against a certain disease. ACIP considers evidence across multiple domains when developing its recommendations, including the magnitude of the public health problem, effect on equity, and cost-effectiveness.⁷ ACIP's recommendations are adopted by the CDC and endorsed by medical societies like AAP⁸ and AAFP.⁹ Aligning vaccine choice policies with ACIP and medical societies ensures policies reflect the most current evidence-based recommendations.

US Laws and Programs Promote Provider Choice



Federal law requires insurance coverage of all ACIP-recommended vaccines.¹⁰ Policymakers have constantly reminded payers that they must cover all approved and recommended products.^{11,12,13} Additionally, the Vaccines for Children Program is required to include all recommended vaccine products. Refusal to cover all immunizations contradicts longstanding federal policy.

- 1) Coster et al. Assessment of preparation time with fully-liquid versus non-fully liquid paediatric hexavalent vaccines. A time and motion study. 2015. Available [here](#).
- 2) Kutasi et al. Understanding hesitancy with revealed preferences across COVID-19 vaccine types. 2022. Available [here](#).
- 3) Sprengholz et al. The power of choice: Experimental evidence that freedom to choose a vaccine against COVID-19 improves willingness to be vaccinated. 2021. Available [here](#).
- 4) Sloan et al. The Fragility of the U.S. Vaccine Supply. 2004. Available [here](#).
- 5) Thomas and Wessel. The State of Innovation in Vaccines and Prophylactic Antibodies for Infectious Diseases. 2023. Available [here](#).
- 6) Collins. Background on invasive Hib disease and vaccination among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. 2024. Available [here](#).
- 7) CDC. Evidence to Recommendations Frameworks. 2023. Available [here](#).
- 8) AAP. Immunizations. Available [here](#).
- 9) AAFP. Immunizations and Vaccines. Available [here](#).
- 10) Schwartz et al. Vaccine Coverage, Pricing, and Reimbursement in the U.S. 2020. Available [here](#).
- 11) CMS. Contract Year 2023 Program Guidance Related to IRA Changes to Part D Coverage of Vaccines and Insulin. 2022. Available [here](#).
- 12) CMS. Coverage and Payment if Vaccines and Vaccine Administration under Medicaid, CHIP, and BHP. 2024. Available [here](#).
- 13) HHS. Vaccines National Strategic Plan. 2021. Available [here](#).