

Questions Posed to Public Health during SB 37 Senate FIN Hearing on 3-13-19:

1. **Can providers charge for vaccines?** All providers who participate in the Vaccine Assessment Program and receive state-supplied vaccine for patients cannot charge the patient or bill insurance for the vaccine. Providers may charge and bill to administer the vaccine. Providers who do not participate in the state-vaccine program and choose to purchase vaccines themselves may charge for the vaccine. Healthcare plans may not deny a provider's claim for vaccines that were not distributed under the program. (AS 18.09.225)
2. **What percentage of providers participate and what are the reasons that some choose not to participate?** Currently 164 providers (39%) participate in the Vaccine Assessment Program out of 418 total providers that report their immunizations to the Division of Public Health as required by law. This includes specialty providers that are not a medical home such as the Anchorage School District. Another example of a specialty provider is Bartlett Hospital in Juneau who only receives influenza vaccine for their employees.

In 2018, 46 of the providers are also assessment payers who opted to pay the assessment and receive vaccine at the discounted rate for uninsured adults. The reasons why some providers choose not to participate can be complex. Each provider needs to determine if it is in their best interest to participate. The Vaccine Assessment Program aims to increase provider participation and is focusing its future outreach on providers.

3. **How many Alaskans get vaccinated total and how many get vaccinated through the program?** The total number of people vaccinated in 2018 was 234,151. Of those, 87,636 people or 37% were vaccinated through the Vaccine Assessment Program.

I know that some of these were discussed in the meeting, but the committee members would like to see responses in writing. Thank you.

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