Idaho Immunization Assessments

The 2010 Idaho Legislature adopted <u>Title 41 Chapter 60</u>, Immunization Assessment. The Idaho Immunization Assessment funds vaccines for insured children provided by the Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Under this program, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare purchases vaccines for insured children at significant government discounts. Specifically, vaccines are purchased at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) cost per done as detailed in the "Pediatric / VFC Vaccine Price List" published at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/cdc-vac-price-list.htm. Providers using state-supplied vaccine cannot bill carriers for that state-supplied vaccine. Carriers may be charged for the vaccine administration fee.

The legislation also created the independent Idaho Immunization Assessment Board to assess mandatory fees from all carriers covering children in the state of Idaho to fund this program. "Carrier" is defined by the statute as "any entity subject to regulation by the department that provides or is authorized to provide health insurance or health benefit plans, or that administers health insurance or health benefit coverage or that otherwise provides a plan of health insurance or health benefits; or a foreign insurer who provides health insurance coverage or benefits to residents of this state as certificate holders under a group policy issued or delivered outside of this state." Further clarification of this definition is in 41-6002(2) published at http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title41/T41CH60SECT41-6002.htm.

The assessment law defines the composition of the board in $\frac{41-6003}{2}$ as follows:

- "(2) The board shall consist of nine (9) members and one (1) ex officio member:
 - (a) Six (6) members shall be appointed by the director and serve at the pleasure of the director. In selecting the members of the board, the director shall appoint:
 - (i) Three (3) members representing carriers, one (1) of whom shall represent administrators or third party administrators;
 - (ii) One (1) primary care physician licensed and practicing in Idaho; and
 - (iii) Two (2) members representing the Idaho business community.
 - (b) One (1) member appointed by the director of the department of health and welfare;
 - (c) One (1) member shall be a member of the senate, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;
 - (d) One (1) member shall be a member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(e) The director or his designated representative shall serve as an ex officio tenth member of the board."

Under the <u>Plan of Operation</u>, carriers report to the Idaho Department of Insurance the numbers of program-eligible children they cover as of January 31 of each year on or before March 15 of that year. The annual assessment fee notice is sent to all carriers no later than April 15 with a due date of June 15. If the billing is greater than \$50,000, the carrier may request a quarterly installment plan.

Additional information about the Assessment Board and the system of assessments can be found on the website of the <u>Idaho Department of Insurance</u>.