

Monthly Voucher Pick-up (MVP) Implementation

An important concept for success in a WIC-immunization project is “Keep it simple. Be positive, not punitive.”

The Monthly Voucher Pick-up (MVP) option is used to help provide closer follow-up and support for parents who need more assistance in getting their children immunized. Agencies that are currently using this strategy do say that for about the first six months or so it is more difficult at the WIC site because of the larger appointment volume, but the majority of parents are able to bring their children up-to-date on immunizations within one month.

Agencies report that after this initial 6-month period of ‘start-up’ difficulties, things become much easier and smoother. Think of MVP as Assisted Referral and Supportive Follow-up.

The following information offers an overview of how this strategy works best:

1. Establish on-site mechanisms to help parents make needed immunization appointments (WIC staff assistance and/or an on-site phone for parents’ to use in scheduling immunization appointments, for example.)
2. The first time an immunization assessment identifies a child who is due now or overdue for immunizations,
 - a. Refer the parent to the child’s regular medical provider for needed immunizations. If the child does not have a regular doctor, offer resources that will help the parent find one.
 - b. Schedule the parent to return to WIC using the usual 2-month or 3-month appointment interval.
 - c. Explain the importance of immunizations to the child’s health, and that you will follow-up at the next appointment to ensure that the child is up-to-date on immunizations and answer any questions the parent may have.
 - d. Also explain that if the parent has difficulty in getting the child immunized, that you will provide more assistance to the parent and closer follow-up monthly until the child is able to get the needed immunizations.
3. If at the follow-up appointment the child has not received the needed immunizations, schedule monthly WIC appointments for follow-up support and evaluation of successful completion of immunizations until overdue immunizations are received. *(However, if the child has an immunization appointment scheduled already that is more than 4 weeks but less than eight weeks in the future, the participant’s follow-up appointment should be scheduled in 2 months rather than 1 month).*

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Sometimes providers forget to record the immunizations and the dates they were given on the child's Immunization Record, and sometimes parents forget to bring the child's immunization record back to WIC. WIC staff can assist the parent by contacting the provider to verify the specific vaccines given and the dates administered, thus avoiding an unnecessary return trip to the provider or 1 month follow-up visit at WIC.

Sample Protocol Using the MVP Strategy

There is certainly more than one way of conducting immunization assess and refer using the MVP strategy. Which staff assesses the immunization records depends on the preference of the agency. In many agencies the WIC Nutrition Assistants and/or nutritionists assess the records at the time they provide other assessment and education.

The following protocol describes one way of implementing the strategy:

Who	Assess documented immunization records of all infants and children up to two years of age.
When	At enrollment, infant mid-certification assessment, and each subsequent recertification appointment.
Child up-to-date on IZs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Praise parent and give certificate of achievement or other incentive (magnet, bib, etc.)• Tell parent when the next immunizations are due• Document in ISIS Individual Comments: IZ OK.
Child not up-to-date on IZs Or Parent does not bring in IZ card	<p>First not up-to-date visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain importance of immunizations to the child's health, and answer questions parent may have.• Give parent referral showing the immunizations that are due and refer to the child's regular medical provider.• Schedule return follow-up appointment at WIC using the usual 2-month or 3-month appointment interval.• Explain that if parent has problems in getting the child immunized, that WIC will offer more assistance to the parent and closer follow-up monthly until the child is able to get the needed immunizations.• Document in ISIS Individual comments: Needs IZ or No IZ Record. Place 'Hold' on food instruments for next visit. <p>Subsequent not up-to-date visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain importance of immunizations to the child's health, and answer questions parent may have.• Give parent referral showing the immunizations that are due and refer to the child's regular medical provider.

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- Schedule return follow-up WIC appointment for immunization class in one month.
 - Document in ISIS Individual comments: Needs IZ or No IZ Record. Place 'Hold' on food instruments for next visit
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Third subsequent not up-to-date visit:

- Explain importance of immunizations to the child's health, and answer questions parent may have.
 - Refer parent to the child's regular medical provider for needed immunizations.
 - Schedule return follow-up WIC appointment for individual counseling or immunization class in one month.
 - Refer the family to the county or city immunization program for follow-up if that program has the capability to do such follow-up.
 - Document in ISIS Individual comments: Needs IZ or No IZ Record.
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IZ Class

- Assess the IZ record while the parent is attending the IZ class
 - If child's immunizations are up-to-date, or if immunizations have been started since the last appointment, follow the protocol for 'Child up-to-date on IZs' on page 2.
 - If child's immunizations are not up-to-date or if no IZ record was brought to the appointment, schedule the parent into 'IZ Class 2' for the following month.
 - Document in ISIS Individual Comments: IZ OK, Final IZ OK, Needs IZ, Started IZ, or No IZ Record.
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IZ Reminder Slip

If you request an immunization record for the participant's next appointment, check the 'immunization record' box on the certification reminder slip (*list of things to bring to the certification appointment*).

WIC Information Folder (WIF)

In addition to or in lieu of checking the 'immunization record' box on the certification reminder slip, stamp 'IZ RECORD' next to the appointment space on the WIF when you request an immunization record for the next appointment.
