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NEWS RELEASE

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Vaccine Policy Change

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) announces that effective October 1, 2012, vaccines purchased with Section 317 grant funds from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) may not be used for routine vaccination of any fully-insured individual. The CDC defines fully insured as:

Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

DPHSS advises the following:

- Fully insured patients to seek immunization services at their private medical providers since they will no longer be able to access these services at the Walk-In Immunizations Clinics conducted at the DPHSS clinic in Mangilao or the various Immunization Outreach events held throughout the island.
- Private physicians who have been referring their patients to public health clinics for routine vaccination will need to plan to have sufficient vaccine inventory on hand to vaccinate their insured patients.
- Insurance companies will need to ensure adequate in-network providers to vaccinate all of the individuals covered under their plans.

For more information regarding this policy clarification, please call the DPHSS Immunization Program at 735-7143.

for Leo G. Casil
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