

**Washington Vaccine Association
Operations Committee Meeting
October 27, 2022; 12:30-1:30 p.m. PT**

I. Attendance. Participating in all or part of the meeting by telephone were the following individuals:

<p>7 <u>Members</u></p> <p>8 Walter Kuiee, Regence</p> <p>9 Jennifer Simonsen, Kaiser</p> <p>10 Tracey Cardillo, Cigna</p> <p>11 Sue Bride, Premera</p> <p>12 Cathy Falanga, Aetna</p> <p>13 Nicole Carroll, UnitedHealthcare</p> <p>14 Janel Jorgenson, DOH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p>	<p><u>WVA</u></p> <p>Julia G. Zell, Esq., Executive Director, Chair</p> <p><u>Helms & Company, Inc.</u></p> <p>Patrick Miller, MPH, Administrative Director</p> <p>Ashley Ithal, MPH, Project Support Leader</p> <p><u>Public Members</u></p> <p>Breelynn Young, GSK</p>
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I. Summary of Actions Taken and/or Recommended

Actions Taken (votes adopted)

- i. To approve April 28, 2022, meeting minutes.
- ii. To approve the addition of any pediatric COVID vaccine added to the Washington Childhood Vaccination Program to the WVA Assessment Grid at a blended price, TBD.
- iii. To approve the addition of Priorix and Vaxneuvance to the WVA Assessment Grid when it is added to the Washington Childhood Vaccination Program at 2% above the CDC contract price.

II. Welcome and Introductions

At 12:34 p.m., Ms. Zell called the meeting to order and provided a notice of recording. Mr. Miller introduced the attending staff members from Helms.

III. Calendar Consent Items

Ms. Zell asked for a motion to approve the April 28, 2022, meeting minutes. There being no other questions or comments, the following item was put to a vote:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve April 28, 2022, meeting minutes.

IV. Operations Updates

Provider Compliance

Ms. Zell reminded the group that the WVA has taken on new provider outreach and compliance efforts this year as historically the WVA has not had a direct relationship with providers. It has become more apparent that outreach and relationship building with the providers can address non-compliance issues in a proactive manner. New provider education materials have been created, including a checklist that is designed to prevent common and systematic errors. Ms. Zell let the group know that a provider liaison will be hired by the WVA in the spring of 2023. The goal of this position is to assist the WVA in its efforts to create partnerships and prevent upstream errors.

Payer Compliance

63 Ms. Zell updated the group that a policy regarding collection of past due DBAs will be reviewed at the November
64 2022 Board meeting. There are both payer and provider generated issues with regards to Vaccine Grid adherence,
65 denials, and patient responsibility that result in denials or delayed payments. The drafted policy states that if the issue
66 at hand stems from a provider generated issue, then the WVA will generally only look back for a one-year period. If
67 the issue at hand stems from a payer generated issue, then the WVA will generally limit the look back period for five
68 years.

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70 Vaccine Grid 2023/24

71 Ms. Zell reminded the group that the Grid amounts have remained steady for the past three years, with the WVA
72 absorbing CDC vaccine price inflation. It is expected that the 2023/24 grid will increase overall due to increased
73 funding requests from the Department of Health driven by both utilization and CDC pricing.

74
75 Fund Source Split

76 Ms. Zell reminded the group that the fund source split describes the proportion of vaccine costs that are allocated by
77 the Department of Health (DOH) to the WVA versus the Childhood Vaccine Program (CVP). The WVA's portion of
78 the allocation will be increasing in January 2023. Mr. Miller added that the fund source split is not recalculated on a
79 regular basis and the WVA needs to incorporate the new split into the WVA's financial model for budgeting purposes.
80 This new split is also part of the expected increase in the 2023/24 Vaccine Grid.

81
82 **V. COVID Planning**

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84 Ms. Zell provided an overview of WVA planning for assumed discontinuation of Federal funding for COVID vaccines
85 in the second quarter of 2023. The date has not been formally communicated yet but stems from discussions that the
86 DOH has had with the CDC in recent months. The WVA team will use a communications plan created for the off-
87 cycle Vaccine Grid additions of Priorix and Vaxneuvance to guide the COVID vaccine grid additions. This model
88 includes a timeline for vaccine rollout, votes to approve the off-cycle Vaccine Grid changes by the WVA Operations
89 Committee and Board of Directors, and a DOH/WVA co-developed communication plan to payers and providers.

90
91 Ms. Zell stated that the current plan is to develop a single, blended amount for all COVID vaccines, at least until the
92 next Vaccine Grid update effective July 1, 2023. At the moment, the CDC has not added the COVID vaccines to their
93 price list, so we are currently unsure of what the financial impact will be. Mr. Miller stated that vaccine hesitance is
94 also impacting uptake in some of the children age groups which also needs to be considered in the financial models
95 the DOH will create to drive their funding requests of the WVA. There was further discussion from members of the
96 Committee regarding the potential impacts of the COVID vaccine additions, including impacts to the Vaccine Grid,
97 the 60-day payer notification requirement, education of payers and providers, and compliance.

98
99 Ms. Zell asked for a motion to approve the addition of any pediatric COVID vaccine added to the Washington
100 Childhood Vaccination Program to the WVA Assessment Grid at a blended price, TBD. There being no other
101 questions or comments, the following item was put to a vote:

102
103 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

104
105 **VOTED: To approve the addition of any pediatric COVID vaccine added to the**
106 **Washington Childhood Vaccination Program to the WVA Assessment Grid at a**
107 **blended price, TBD.**

108
109 Ms. Zell stated that in addition to the expected COVID vaccines, that there are two, new vaccines expected to be added
110 to the CDC's price list later this year: Priorix and Vaxneuvance. Currently, it is unclear when these two vaccines will
111 be added by the CDC, when they will be available within the DOH's order set to providers, and when DBA billing
112 will commence. There is still the same 60-day payer notification requirement as previously mentioned during the
113 COVID discussion. Ms. Zell stated that there is an expectation that several additional vaccines will be coming to
114 market in the next few years, so developing a process to address these off-cycle vaccine additions is imperative.

115

116 Ms. Zell asked for a motion to approve the addition of Priorix and Vaxneuvance to the WVA Assessment Grid when
117 they are added to the Washington Childhood Vaccination Program at 2% above the CDC contract price. There being
118 no other questions or comments, the following item was put to a vote:
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120 Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

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122 **VOTED: To approve the addition of Priorix and Vaxneuvance to the WVA Assessment**
123 **Grid when they are added to the Washington Childhood Vaccination**
124 **Program at 2% above the CDC contract price.**
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126 **VI. Closing**

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128 Ms. Zell thanked everyone for their input and guidance today, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm PT.