

# ***What is AFIX? Should I participate in AFIX? Yes!***

**AFIX is a federal program. The CDC describes AFIX as follows:**

1. *Assessment of the healthcare provider's vaccination coverage levels and immunization practices.*
2. *Feedback of results to the provider along with recommended strategies to improve processes, immunization practices, and coverage levels.*
3. *Incentives to recognize and reward improved performance.*
4. *eXchange of healthcare information and resources necessary to facilitate improvement.*

## **In Vermont...**

**Assessment:** Immunization practices are reviewed with staff during the VFC/VFA quality assurance visit. With the local Public Health Nurse (PHN) site visitor, practice staff identifies evidence based interventions already in place and considers one or two goals to discuss at the Feedback session with the provider/policy leader. For more information about evidence based interventions, go to <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/vaccines/index.html> An excerpt is provided in this manual.

Also, the PHN uses Immunization Registry data to calculate up-to-date coverage rates for Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccine series for 24 month old children and adolescents. Rates are calculated using Registry functions if practices have reached the threshold number of patient data represented in the Registry.

**Incentives:** Your efforts are appreciated. A Vermont provider is nominated yearly for national recognition as a “Vaccine Champion.”

**Feedback:** A brief meeting is sought with the enrolled provider/other designated policy maker. This is a time to focus on a goal set by practice staff, and the PHN offers staff education and printed resources. Also, the practice level coverage rates are shared when data is updated via daily entry or batch data transfers to the Immunization Registry.

**eXchange:** Immunization Program PHNs visit practices across Vermont and learn from the accomplishments of individual practices. Great ideas from other practices and the latest immunization information and resources are shared with immunization providers and their staff. Resources include the *Pink Book*, laminated schedules, Vermont simplified schedules, and patient education materials.

***Thank you for participating in AFIX!***