

Feb 22, 2022

## COVID-19 Counseling Services for State of New York

Effective February 8, 2022, some NY Medicaid managed care organizations will be covering COVID-19 Vaccine counseling service fees. Pharmacies will be able to bill counseling service fees when the following criteria has been met.

- confirm with the patient, or the parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate) that the patient is unvaccinated (the patient has not received an initial/first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine);
- confirm the patient does not already have an appointment scheduled to receive a dose;
- confirm patient consent of the parent, guardian or caregiver (if appropriate) to receive the counseling;
- confirm vaccination status in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), whenever possible\*;
- strongly recommend the COVID-19 vaccination (unless medically contraindicated, in which case the counseling session is not billable);
- counsel the patient, along with their parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate), on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines;
- answering any questions that the patient or parent, guardian, or caregiver has regarding COVID-19 vaccination;
- counsel the patient, along with their parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate), for a minimum of eight minutes; **and**
- arrange for vaccination or providing information on how the patient can get vaccinated for COVID-19.

Pharmacies will be able to receive a counseling service fee of \$25 as well as the \$40 administration fee when a patient receives a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Pharmacies that submit for COVID-19 counseling service fee will be attesting that the above criteria has been met.

Pharmacies will process COVID-19 vaccines in the same manner as all other LOB submitted to Express Scripts.

In order to appropriately submit claims for COVID-19 Vaccines, in which counseling and administration of the vaccine has occurred, please include the following:

- A valid and FDA approved NDC in Field 407-D7 (Product/Service ID)
- A Submission Clarification Code in Field 420-DK (Submission Clarification Code): 02 (initial dose), 06 (Second dose), 07 (Additional dose for immunocompromised) or 10 (booster dose)
  - If an SCC code is not included, the following rejection will occur: NCPDP Reject 34 (Missing/Invalid Submission Clarification Code)
- A professional service code in Field 440-E5 of PE (Patient Education)
  - If this code is not included on the claim, a counseling fee may not be paid



- An Incentive amount must be submitted in Field 438-E3 (Incentive Amount Submitted)

COVID-19 Vaccine claims administered to patients where counseling services were **not** conducted will continue to submit claims with:

- A valid and FDA approved NDC in Field 407-D7 (Product/Service ID)
- A Submission Clarification Code in Field 420-DK (Submission Clarification Code): 02 (initial dose), 06 (Second dose), 07 (Additional dose for immunocompromised) or 10 (booster dose)
  - If an SCC code is not included, the following rejection will occur: NCPDP Reject 34 (Missing/Invalid Submission Clarification Code)
- A professional service code in Field 440-E5 of MA (Medication Administration)
  - If this code is not included on the claim, a counseling fee may not be paid
- An Incentive amount must be submitted in Field 438-E3 (Incentive Amount Submitted)

Pharmacies may submit COVID-19 counseling service fees to the medical benefit when the patient did not receive the vaccine, but counseling services were conducted by the pharmacy.

If you need a member's specific prescription processing information or other help with a claim, please visit our Pharmacist Resource Center at <https://prc.express-scripts.com>.

