



March 2022

Coverage Policy and Billing Guidance for the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines

This guidance sets forth New York State (NYS) Medicaid’s reimbursement policy for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA or authorized for emergency use and instructions for providers to bill the cost of administration of authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Information about vaccines receiving approval or emergency use authorization (EUA) by the FDA can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>

NYS Medicaid’s policy for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine will continue to remain in effect in accordance with the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act). As additional COVID-19 vaccines become available under an EUA, or are otherwise approved by the FDA, this billing guidance will be updated as needed.

NYS Medicaid Coverage Policy

- A. NYS Medicaid Will Not Reimburse for the Cost of COVID-19 Vaccine
 - 1) Payment will not be made to NYS Medicaid providers for the cost of COVID-19 vaccine because the vaccine is available at no cost to providers. Providers must not bill the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code for the vaccine.
 - 2) In order to obtain COVID-19 vaccine at no cost, Medicaid enrolled providers must be legally authorized to administer the vaccine and also enroll as COVID-19 vaccine providers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Immunization, or the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) Bureau of Immunization. Such providers are considered qualified providers by the Medicaid program for the purpose of COVID-19 vaccine administration.
 - 3) For information on how to enroll in the NYS COVID-19 Vaccination Program and how to register for the NYSIS or CIR, please visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-information-providers>.
 - 4) Note that this program is distinct from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and separate enrollment is required.
- B. Reimbursement for Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines
 - 1) The NYS Medicaid program will reimburse NYS Medicaid enrolled and qualified providers for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
 - 2) Reimbursement for administration of COVID-19 vaccines may be based on a patient-specific order or non-patient specific order (“standing order”). These orders must be kept on file by the provider. Standing orders enable assessment and vaccination of the patient without the need for clinician examination or a patient-specific order from the attending provider at the time of the patient interaction. For more information, please see:
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/immunguide.htm#>
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/joint_vaccine_administration_12-15_715pm.pdf
 - 3) The ordering provider’s National Provider Identifier (NPI) is required on the Medicaid required to be enrolled in the NYS Medicaid program (except pharmacists). claim. Ordering providers, including MMC network providers, are



- 4) Providers are prohibited from charging Medicaid members a co-payment or any cost-sharing responsibility for the COVID-19 vaccine or the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 5) Providers must not bill NYS Medicaid for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to members who are also enrolled in Medicare. Dually eligible enrollees will continue to access full coverage of immunization services through Medicare.

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.

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)

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>.