



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance
Medicaid Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccine Administration
Medicaid Provider Information and FAQs
February 12, 2021

The Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA), in collaboration with the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH), is working with federal, state and local stakeholders to implement Medicaid and CHIP coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, COVID-19 vaccines have been purchased from the drug manufacturers by the federal government and are free of charge to DPH-approved providers and to the pharmacies obtaining the vaccines directly from the federal government. Medicaid Fee-for-Service (“DMAP FFS”) and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will pay a COVID-19 vaccine administration fee for Medicaid and CHIP members.

****At this time, Delaware Medicaid (DMAP FFS and MCOs) have begun processing COVID-19 vaccine administration claims and working through any provider billing questions. Retroactive coverage will be provided for eligible claims and we will continue to provide updates on billing.** Providers are not permitted to charge Medicaid members for the COVID-19 vaccine or administration of the vaccine.**

DMMA has published the following Medicaid Provider COVID-19 Vaccine Administration FAQs and will continue to update this information. For more information on Delaware’s efforts to implement an efficient and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to all Delaware communities, please refer the [DPH COVID-19 Vaccine](#) page on the DHSS website.

Pharmacy providers should pay special attention to the section of these FAQs dedicated to pharmacy providers.

General Provider FAQs:

1. Question: When will COVID-19 vaccination be available?

Answer: The FDA has approved the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). For additional information, including Delaware’s planned phases for vaccine allocation, please refer to the [Delaware Division of Public Health](#).

2. Question: Will Medicaid and CHIP provide coverage of COVID-19 vaccines approved for use under the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?

Answer: Yes. For now, the cost of the vaccine itself is being paid for by the Federal government. Medicaid will cover a vaccine administration fee for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. Members of Medicaid MCOs (AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware or Highmark Health Options) will receive coverage through their MCO and other Medicaid beneficiaries will receive coverage through Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS).

3. Question: How is vaccine administration covered for Medicaid beneficiaries dually enrolled in Medicare (“dual eligibles”)?

Answer: Medicare is the primary payer for COVID-19 vaccine administration.

4. Question: Does Medicaid provide coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine for the uninsured?

Answer: No. Providers can seek reimbursement for vaccine administration for the uninsured through the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program. Providers can find details on participation and billing through this program [here](#).

5. Question: Where can providers obtain information about private insurance coverage of COVID-19 vaccines?

Answer: Information on private insurance coverage of COVID-19 vaccines is available through the [Delaware Department of Insurance](#).

6. Question: How can Medicaid providers sign up to become a COVID-19 vaccinator?

Answer: Any provider interested in becoming a COVID-19 vaccinator and receiving vaccine directly from the Delaware DPH must first become an enrolled COVID-19 vaccinator through DPH. **Providers must enroll with DPH for COVID-19 vaccines, even if they are already enrolled for other vaccines.** Information on DPH provider enrollment can be found [here](#).

Any provider planning to bill for COVID-19 vaccine administration should ensure that they are enrolled with DMAP FFS and with both MCOs (AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware and Highmark Health Options). Information on provider enrollment is available at the following websites:

[DMMA](#)
[AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware](#)
[Highmark Health Options](#)

Additional guidance is forthcoming on requirements for out-of-network providers and non-traditional provider types.

7. Question: Which Medicaid participating provider types can be reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine administration to eligible members?

Answer: As COVID-19 vaccine allocation becomes more widely available, any active Medicaid provider type whose scope of practice currently includes vaccine administration may be reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine administration. Pharmacy providers should see the “Pharmacy” section of this document for guidance specific to pharmacies.

Any provider planning to bill for COVID-19 vaccine administration should ensure that they are enrolled with DMAP FFS and with both MCOs (AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware and Highmark Health Options). Additional guidance is forthcoming on requirements for out-of-network providers and non-traditional provider types.

8. Question: What are the Medicaid reimbursement rates for the COVID-19 vaccine administration?

Answer: For most providers, Delaware Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) and our partner MCOs (AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware and Highmark Health Options) will be using the Medicare fee schedule rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration. The Medicaid rate for COVID-19 vaccine administration is \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines. For a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of two or more doses, the initial dose administration payment rate is \$16.94 and \$28.39 for the administration of the final dose in the series. CMS may update this information and providers should refer to the [CMS website](#) for the most updated coverage codes and rates. Additional guidance will be forthcoming for certain providers subject to alternative fee schedules due to federal regulation, such as FQHCs.

9. (Updated) Question: How are Medicaid providers reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine administration?

Answer: DPH-approved Medicaid providers will be reimbursed for the applicable Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) administration code when a COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to eligible Medicaid members. All non-pharmacy providers submitting claims for the administration fee for COVID-19 vaccines must use the CMS 1500 claim form or the 837P format (see pharmacy-specific billing instructions later in these FAQs). **Please note that for COVID-19 vaccines, the charge will need to be entered as \$.01. However, these vaccines are provided at no charge from the federal government and there will be no payment on the vaccine code itself. Medicaid DMAP FFS and Medicaid MCOs will only make payment on the vaccine administration code. Vaccine procedure codes and administration fee codes should be billed together on the same claim.** Delaware providers should use the COVID-19 vaccine administration CPT codes listed on the [CMS website](#).

2/12/2021 Update: Administration payment is not reimbursed separately when billed with a visit or bundled service including a medical component. However, providers that participate in a vaccination event or administer the vaccine without other Medicaid services will be reimbursed the vaccine administration fee(s).

10. (Updated) Question: For Medicaid beneficiaries in long-term care facilities, how will COVID-19 vaccine administration be reimbursed?

Answer: Medicaid-participating long-term care facilities have two options for receipt of COVID vaccines.

For facilities that elect to participate in the federal [Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program](#), Walgreens and CVS pharmacies have enrolled directly with the CDC to receive vaccine allocations to vaccinate residents and staff. Walgreens/CVS will be reimbursed by Medicaid for vaccine administration.

Medicaid long-term care facilities may also elect to become DPH-approved vaccinators. Additional guidance will be forthcoming to address reimbursement for long-term care facilities that do not use the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program to provide COVID vaccines to Medicaid residents.

2/12/2021 Update: For Medicaid long-term care facilities that elect to become DPH-approved vaccinators for their Medicaid residents, reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine administration is through the existing Medicaid per diem rate paid for a resident. No additional reimbursement will be made at this time.

11. (New) Question: For Medicaid beneficiaries receiving COVID-19 vaccinations through federally-qualified health care centers (FQHCs), how will COVID-19 vaccine administration be reimbursed?

Answer: COVID-19 vaccine administration qualifies as an FQHC “visit” and is eligible for the Prospective Payment System (PPS) encounter rate. FQHC providers must provide the vaccine code and vaccine administration code on the claim/encounter.

An FQHC visit that includes a medical component and a COVID-19 vaccination is reimbursed as a single visit, eligible for a single PPS encounter rate.

12. (New) Question: For Medicaid beneficiaries receiving COVID-19 vaccinations through school-based wellness centers (SBWCs), how will COVID-19 vaccine administration be reimbursed?

Answer: COVID-19 vaccine administration qualifies as a SBWC “visit” and is eligible for the applicable visit rate. SBWC providers must provide the vaccine code and vaccine administration code on the claim/encounter.

A SBWC visit that includes a medical component and a COVID-19 vaccination is reimbursed as a single visit, eligible for a single visit rate.

13. (New) Question: Should a Medicaid provider include the vaccine and vaccine administration code on a claim if the cost of administering the vaccine is included as part of the visit or bundled service?

Answer: Yes. Providers should include the vaccine and vaccine administration code on the claim to assist DMMA with tracking and reporting purposes.

14. (New) Question: How will PACE providers be reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine administration?

Answer: Most PACE enrollees have Medicare coverage and Medicare is the primary payer for COVID-19 vaccine administration. For Medicaid-only PACE members, PACE sites are responsible for COVID-19 vaccine administration under the existing capitation payment.

15. (New) Question: Can Medicaid providers provide COVID-19 vaccines at alternative (non-traditional) sites?

Answer: COVID-19 vaccine administration may be provided at alternative sites (e.g., drive-through sites) when delivered by a qualified Medicaid provider (such as a physician) otherwise authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines in Delaware.

Pharmacy-Specific Provider FAQs:

1. Question: When pharmacies provide the COVID-19 vaccine, can pharmacists be the prescriber?

Answer: Yes. Under the authority of the PREP Act, Delaware pharmacists are permitted to be the prescriber for the COVID-19 vaccine on the pharmacy claim.

2. Question: What is the Medicaid pharmacy dispensing fee for the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: Delaware Medicaid (DMAP FFS) and our partner MCOs (AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware and Highmark Health Options) will be using the Medicare fee schedule rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration. Pharmacy providers will be paid a dispensing fee of \$16.94 for the first dose and \$28.39 for the second dose. The dispensing fee for any single-dose vaccines is \$28.39.

CMS may update this information and providers should refer to the [CMS website](#) for the most updated information.

3. Question: What are the billing instructions for pharmacy providers?

Answer: Pharmacy providers must bill COVID vaccines as a pharmacy benefit.

Pharmacy providers must follow DMAP FFS procedures and NCPDP Emergency Preparedness guidance. This includes using the submission clarification codes to identify if the pharmacy is administering the first or second dose.

Specific Billing Fields:

- Submission Clarification Code -
- For the initial dose, the pharmacy should submit a Clarification Code of 2 (Other Override) in the Submission Clarification Code (420-DK) field.

- For the second dose, the pharmacy should submit a Clarification Code of 6 (Starter Dose)

- Ingredient Cost Submitted – Until further notice, submit the value of \$0.01. The pharmacy will be paid \$0.00 for the ingredient cost.
- Dispensing Fee - Pharmacy providers will be paid a dispensing fee of \$16.94 for the first dose and \$28.39 for the second dose. When a single dose vaccine becomes available, the Medicaid rate for COVID-19 vaccine administration will be \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines. The different dispensing fees will be processed based on the use of the Submission Clarification Code and the NDC of the vaccines. CMS may update this information and providers should refer to the [CMS website](#) for the most updated coverage codes and rates.
- Copay – There will be no copay for the vaccine.
- Prescriber – The pharmacy should submit the name and NPI of the prescribing provider if presented with a prescription for the vaccine. Pharmacists are permitted to prescribe the vaccine and therefore be the prescriber for the COVID vaccine on the pharmacy claim. If the pharmacist is the prescriber, enter the pharmacist's NPI in the prescriber field.
- Quantity Dispensed – The Billing Unit is a milliliter (ML).
- Days Supply – The Days Supply is “1” regardless of the vaccine administered.