

SPECIAL BULLETIN

FOR HEALTH OPTIONS PROVIDERS

JUNE 6, 2015

CLARIFICATION REGARDING SPECIAL BULLETIN PR 15-3, DATED FEB.12, 2015

VACCINE BILLING PROCEDURE DIFFERS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

As you are aware, effective Jan. 1, 2015, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware now offers Medicaid benefits to Delawareans through Highmark Health Options. This includes coverage for vaccines for children and adults under Highmark Health Options' basic benefits package.

Vaccine administration reimbursement amounts have been established based on the vaccine's components. Please note there are distinctions in the way providers should bill for providing vaccines to children vs. adults with Highmark Health Options coverage, as described below.

CHILDREN'S VACCINES (CHILDREN AGES 18 AND UNDER) - UPDATE

Children's vaccines are supplied to you free of charge by the federally funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

For Highmark Health Options claims for children's vaccines, the vaccine code covers the administration of the vaccine as well as the vaccine itself. Therefore, to avoid processing errors and delays in reimbursement for children's vaccine claims, please bill the vaccine code and the administration code, and understand that Health Options will pay the administration fee under the vaccine code in order to support proper billing and data collection requirements. The current reimbursement rate for vaccine administration is \$22.07.

We acknowledge that since Jan. 1, 2015, Highmark Health Options incorrectly reimbursed providers for both the vaccine and the vaccine administration on some claims for children's vaccine. This resulted in overpayments for these claims and some underpayments of the administration fee. In order to remain in compliance with the VFC program, we have been adjusting these claims over the past several weeks. We anticipate the reprocessing of the vaccine administration rate to take a few payments cycles. Remittance advice will include an explanation for which claims items the recoupment of the overpayment took place.

ADULT VACCINES (ADULTS AGES 19 AND OLDER)

To receive the appropriate reimbursement when you administer a vaccine to an adult, please bill with both the vaccination code and the administration code.

Thank you for the quality care you provide to our members and for your continued support of Highmark Health Options. If you have any questions about this Special Bulletin, please contact Highmark Health Options Provider Service at 1-844-325-6252. Additional information about Highmark Health Options is available at www.highmarkhealthoptions.com

Health Options



Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware