

## Adhere to HPV and Shingles Vaccine Guidelines

Timely vaccinations can help protect your patients' health. For patient safety, it's important that you follow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendations and Child and Adult Immunization Schedules.

### How are claims affected?

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) in reviewing claims found that two categories of vaccines are often administered outside FDA and ACIP recommendations: Prevention of human papillomavirus (HPV) and shingles caused by the herpes zoster virus.

For these categories, if vaccines are administered outside of the FDA and ACIP recommendations, BCBSTX will:

- Consider the services to be experimental, investigational or unproven, (EIU), which are not a covered benefit for BCBSTX members; and
- Recover reimbursements as per the claim payment recovery process outlined in our participating provider contracts.

BCBSTX will continue to reimburse medically necessary claims for vaccines administered according to FDA approval guidelines and ACIP recommended schedules.

### Know the Facts: HPV Vaccination

**Gardasil 9 (9vHPV)** is the vaccine for the prevention of HPV infections and associated diseases, including oropharyngeal and other head and neck cancers.

- The FDA approved Gardasil 9 for women and men ages 9 to 45.
- ACIP recommends catch-up vaccinations for women and men through age 26 and vaccinating adults older than 26.
- Involve your patients in the decision to vaccinate.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reported](#), Gardasil 9 is the [only HPV vaccine available](#) in the U.S. Please check your systems and processes to avoid using 2vHPV or 4vHPV billing codes.

### Know the Facts: Shingles Vaccinations

**Shingrix** and **Zostavax** help prevent shingles and its complications:


- **Shingrix** is approved by the FDA. ACIP recommends Shingrix for people age 50 or older. It requires two doses. The second dose should be two to six months after the first.
- **Zostavax** is no longer available in the U.S. It was removed from the 2021 ACIP adult immunization schedule.

### More Information

The summary of the ACIP changes to the adult immunization schedule are in the February 12, 2021, [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#). ACIP's recommendations include immunization schedules for children and adolescents as well as adults, which can be found on the [CDC website](#).

Also refer to [BCBSTX's Clinical Payment and Coding Policies](#) for our Preventive Services Policy (CPCP006).

This material is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician or other health care provider. Physicians and other health care providers are encouraged to use their own medical judgment based upon all available information and the condition of the patient in determining the appropriate course of treatment. References to third party sources or organizations are not a representation, warranty or endorsement of such organizations. Any questions regarding those organizations should be addressed to them directly.

 By clicking this link, you will go to a new website/app ("site"). This new site may be offered by a vendor or an independent third party. The site may also contain non-Medicare related information. In addition, some sites may require you to agree to their terms of use and privacy policy.