



COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Information

What is new

Beginning December 28, 2020, Medicaid and CHIP will offer COVID-19 vaccines as a pharmacy benefit. Coverage of the vaccine administration is mandatory, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) must not advertise it to pharmacies as an “opt-in” or “optional” benefit. There is no cost-sharing for CHIP as this is a preventative service.

Health and Human Service Commission (HHSC) will cover the administration of the COVID vaccine as non-risk. HHSC set the fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement rates in alignment with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. The vaccine requires two doses. The FFS administration reimbursement rate is \$16.94 for the initial dose and \$28.39 for the final dose.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine National Drug Code (NDC) 59267-1000-1 will appear on the formulary file with an effective date of December 11, 2020. Vendor Drug Program (VDP) will add the NDCs of Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved vaccines to the formulary file and notify BCBSTX.

Pharmacy Claim Details

1. Per National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) guidance, the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the pharmacist administering the vaccine or supervising pharmacist must be listed in the prescriber field.
2. The supervising pharmacist must be used if the pharmacy staff administering the vaccine does not have a NPI (e.g., interns).
3. Ensure your pharmacy claim adjudication system does not validate pharmacist NPI against the master provider file since pharmacists administering a COVID vaccine do not have to enroll with Medicaid. To bypass edits validating Medicaid enrollment, FFS requires pharmacies to submit claims with the value of “05” in the “Prescription Origin Code” field (419-DJ). BCBSTX may choose to use this method or find another way to bypass Medicaid enrollment validation edits. (Note: The billing pharmacy submitting the claim must be enrolled in Texas Medicaid.)
4. Pharmacies submitting claims for the initial dose of a COVID vaccine must use the value “02” (Other Override) in the “Submission Clarification Code” field (420-DK) to indicate the first dose of a multi-dose vaccine. Pharmacies must submit the final dose with a value of “06” (Starter Dose) in field 420-DK.

Provider Education

The COVID-19 vaccine administration requires registration with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Program Portal. Enrollment is required to receive and administer any approved COVID-19 vaccine. For further COVID-19 enrollment information, visit the DSHS website at, <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/provider-information.aspx>.

To register with the Texas Department of State Health Services, visit: <https://enrolltexasiz.dshs.texas.gov/> For question about registration, providers should call the DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Provider hotline at 1-877-835-7750, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday or email COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov.

Have questions:

Contact our BCBSTX Medicaid Provider Service Center at 1-877-560-8055 or contact your BCBSTX Medicaid Provider Network Representative at 1-855-212-1615.

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