

To: All Providers Participating in Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Kevin Bagley, Director *KB*
Date: September 14, 2021 (Updated September 30, 2021)
Re: COVID-19 Vaccines, Various Updates

This provider bulletin is being issued to notify Medicaid providers of the following:

- The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent full approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 16 and older, which does not change the reimbursement rate;
- Coverage of an additional dose of some COVID-19 vaccines for immunocompromised individuals; and,
- A change in the number of additional fees that can be reimbursed for at-home vaccine administration.

1. Full FDA Approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for individuals age 16 and older. Under an FDA emergency use authorization (EUA), Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is approved for those 12-15 years old.

The COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J/Janssen will continue to be available at no cost to providers for administration. Reimbursement does not change for the administration of a vaccine that moves from EUA to full approval.

2. Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Dose for Immunocompromised Individuals

After the initial two-dose vaccine series, Medicaid will cover an additional dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>.

Medicaid has updated its COVID-19 Ad-Hoc fee schedule to include the additional COVID-19 vaccine dose codes and rates, available at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Provider-Rates-and-Fee-Schedules.aspx>.

Pharmacy claims submissions for the additional COVID-19 vaccine dose must document the submission clarification code (SCC of NCPDP field 420 -DK) of 07, per the recommendation by NCPDP as 'medically necessary.'

3. Reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccines administered in the home

[Provider Bulletin 21-15](#) explained under which conditions, limitations, and billing instructions a provider could receive an additional fee of \$32.50 when the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine takes place in a beneficiary's home.

For at-home vaccine administrations performed on or after August 24, 2021, the additional fee can now be reimbursed more than once when more than one vaccine administration is performed in the same home on the same day. The additional fee can now be paid for up to five administrations of a COVID-19 vaccine in the same home on the same day. If you provide more than five administrations of a COVID-19 vaccine in the same home on the same day, you may only bill the additional fee for five individuals.

Except for allowing the additional fee to be paid more than once as described above, and except for the addition of new codes for administration of an additional dose of some vaccines to immunocompromised individuals as described above, all other conditions, limitations, and billing instructions contained within Provider Bulletin 21-15 remain in effect.

4. COVID-19 Booster Doses (NEW - added September 30, 2021):

Medicaid will cover an additional dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series for the following individuals:

- 65 years and older and residents residing in long-term care setting **should** receive a booster shot;
- 50 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster shot;
- 18 to 49 years with underlying medical conditions **may** receive a booster shot; and
- 18 to 49 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot.

For a list of health conditions associated with an increased risk of severe COVID-19, visit the CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Medicaid via email at: DHHS.MedicaidPharmacyUnit@nebraska.gov. Health plans should also copy their contract manager.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.