

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Deputy Director-Medicaid

Transmittal # 20-24

TO: All DC Medicaid Fee for Service Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: June 11, 2020

SUBJECT: **Reimbursement for Pharmacist Administered Vaccines, Immunizations, and Related Emergency Anaphylactic Agents**

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform all DC Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) providers of the implementation of a claims adjudication process for pharmacist administered vaccines, immunizations, and related emergency anaphylactic agents at the pharmacy point of sale (POS) for eligible FFS Medicaid beneficiaries. This change will be effectuated on June 15, 2020.

Background

Effective February 15, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an amendment to the District of Columbia Medicaid State Plan. The approved State Plan amendment authorizes the FFS Medicaid program to reimburse licensed and certified pharmacists for the administration of covered immunizations, vaccines, and emergency anaphylactic agents that are required to treat an anaphylactic reaction caused by an immunization or vaccine at the pharmacy point of sale (POS) for eligible FFS Medicaid beneficiaries.

This benefit will operate concurrently with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. FFS Medicaid beneficiaries aged 18 and younger shall continue to receive immunizations, vaccines, and related emergency anaphylactic agents from participating providers in the VFC Program.

Except for flu vaccines, Medicaid reimbursement shall not be available if an immunization or vaccine covered under the VFC Program is administered to a FFS Medicaid beneficiary aged 18 and younger. Participating pharmacists who administer a flu vaccine or a vaccine that is not covered under the VFC Program to a Medicaid beneficiary aged 18 and younger are required to notify the beneficiary's primary care physician of the vaccination.

Current District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy regulations allow registered pharmacists that are certified by the Board of Pharmacy to administer immunizations and vaccinations to any person age twelve (12) and older with parental consent or valid identification if eighteen (18) or older if the protocol is expressly limited to only the following types of vaccinations: Hepatitis, Shingles, Human Papillomavirus, Tetanus, Tdap, Meningococcal, Haemophilus influenzae, pneumococcal, and influenza vaccinations, including but not limited to H1N1 and other epidemic vaccinations which are then currently called for by the World Health Organization or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at the time of the vaccination.

PHARMACY BENEFIT COVERAGE

FFS Medicaid covered products will be limited to the types of vaccinations and immunizations allowed per the DC Municipal Regulations found at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/187242>, subject to the additional restrictions on treatment and eligibility noted in DC Municipal Regulations regarding Medicaid-covered vaccinations at 29 DCMR 2715.

PHARMACY CLAIMS SUBMISSION

All claims for pharmacist administered vaccinations, immunizations, and related emergency anaphylactic agents shall be submitted to the DC Medicaid FFS Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), Magellan, at the pharmacy POS similar to all other pharmacy claims. All claims must be submitted using the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Version D.0 claim format as mandated by the Health Insurance Portability Act (HIPAA) in January 1, 2012. DHCF will accept the B1, B2, B3, and E1 transactions in the NCPDP D.0 format; no other transactions will be accepted.

PHARMACY REIMBURSEMENT

Pharmacy POS reimbursement will include the ingredient cost of the vaccine, immunization, and related emergency anaphylactic agent plus an administration fee based on the assigned route of administration for the vaccine, immunization, and related emergency anaphylactic agent. Injectable administered products will have a \$13.00 administration fee. Nasal administered products will have a \$8.00 administration fee.

There will be no additional dispensing fee paid for vaccines, immunizations, and related emergency anaphylactic agents.

Contact

If you have any questions on pharmacist administered vaccines, immunizations, and related emergency anaphylactic agents, please contact the Division of Clinician, Pharmacy, and Acute Provider Services: Charlene Fairfax, Senior Pharmacist at (202) 442-9076 or e-mail: charlene.fairfax@dc.gov; Gidey Amare, Pharmacist at (202) 442-5952 or e-mail: gidey.amare@dc.gov; Jonas Terry, Pharmacist at (202) 478-1415 or e-mail: jonas.terry@dc.gov; or Magellan (Pharmacy Benefit Manager) at 1-800-273-4962 (Provider Phone Line).

Cc: DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
Medical Society of DC