

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director-Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 21-31

TO: All DC Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: August 06, 2021

SUBJECT: Fee-For-Service Coverage of Pediatric Immunizations and Administration for Medicaid and Immigrant Children's Program Beneficiaries

Purpose

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is committed to taking critical steps to ensure children in the District have access to immunizations as they return to in-person learning this fall. This transmittal provides notice of targeted coverage and reimbursement effort for fee-for-service pharmacy providers that administer required pediatric immunizations to children. Families can schedule appointments for pediatric immunizations through DC Health's online vaccination portal, vaccinate.dc.gov.

Background

Beginning August 2, 2021, District students and families can schedule appointments to receive their required school immunizations through DC Health's online vaccination portal, vaccinate.dc.gov. Through the vaccination portal, families will be able to schedule routine childhood vaccinations for children ages three (3) through eighteen (18). Vaccination appointments will start on August 7, 2021 and run through September 30, 2021. Families will also have the option to add on a COVID-19 vaccine at the time of scheduling for children eligible for the COVID vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is highly encouraged for children and adults ages twelve (12) and above. Appointments will take place at participating DC Public Schools and public charter school locations throughout the District. District families are also able to schedule an immunization appointment by calling the Vaccination Call Center at 1.855.363.0333.

In coordination with DC Health, for pharmacies participating in the vaccination initiative, DHCF will provide temporary fee-for-service coverage and reimbursement for pediatric vaccines administered to Medicaid and Immigrant Children's Program (ICP) beneficiaries (ages 3-18).

Traditionally, DHCF has not reimbursed providers for the cost of pediatric vaccines, as primary care providers are able to receive them at no cost through the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). However, pharmacies do not currently participate with VFC in the District.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the District has experienced a reduced rate of immunizations among resident children. DHCF coverage and reimbursement of pediatric vaccines through participating pharmacies is a targeted effort to boost access to pharmacy providers able to administer vaccines at the capacity needed to have an impact on immunization rates for District children ahead of their return to school.

Billing Codes & Reimbursement

Pharmacy reimbursement for pediatric vaccines under this initiative will include an administration fee and the ingredient cost, determined in accordance with the “lesser of” pricing methodology approved in the District’s Medicaid State Plan and codified at 29 DCMR § 2700 *et seq.*

When administering pediatric vaccines covered under this initiative, participating pharmacies should bill DHCF directly using the Medicaid or ICP beneficiaries Medicaid Identification Number. When administering the COVID-19 vaccine, all providers should continue to follow guidance established in [Transmittal # 21-16: Professional Services Billing Codes and Reimbursement Rates for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) or any subsequent updates published to the [DHCF website](#).

The tables below provide the relevant and most current billing and reimbursement information for the relevant administration fee. The reimbursement rate for the administration fee will depend on the route of administration (ROA) of the covered vaccine.

Administration Fee (non-compound)

ROA	ROA Code	Administration Fee
Injection	2	\$13.00
Subcutaneous	G	\$13.00
Intramuscular	C	\$13.00
Intradermal	9	\$13.00
Nasal	7	\$8.00

Administration Fee (compounds)

ROA	SNOMED Code	Administration Fee
Injection	385218009; or 424109004	\$13.00
Subcutaneous	34206005	\$13.00
Intramuscular	78421000	\$13.00
Intradermal	372464004	\$13.00
Nasal	46713006	\$8.00

Products

Pediatric vaccine products covered under this initiative are limited to the following types of vaccinations: Hepatitis, Shingles, Human Papillomavirus, Tetanus, Tdap, Varicella, Meningococcal, Haemophilus influenzae, Pneumococcal, Influenza, and Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations.

See attached PDF for covered vaccines by National Drug Code.

Well-Child Visits

This initiative is established to bolster access to immunizations ahead of the return to school but is not meant to take the place of or disrupt a child's regular or annual visits to their pediatrician/primary care provider. Beneficiaries and our partners at contracted Managed Care Organizations should continue to schedule due and overdue well-child visits for all Medicaid and ICP children.

Contact

If you have questions, please contact Charlene Fairfax, Senior Pharmacist, Division of Clinicians, Pharmacy and Acute Provider Services, at charlene.fairfax@dc.gov or 202.442.9076.

For questions specific to well-child visits please contact Colleen Sonosky, Program Manager, Division of Children's Health Services, at colleen.sonosky@dc.gov or 202.442.5913.

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
DC American Academy of Pediatrics