



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: Pharmacies, Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs),
Independent Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) –
For Action
Managed Healthcare Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: **New Jersey Reimbursement for Pharmacist-Administered
SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Immunizations**

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To notify providers regarding a policy change by the New Jersey
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) to reimburse pharmacies
for pharmacist-administered SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations.

BACKGROUND: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued Emergency
Use Authorizations (EUAs) for certain SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. To maximize access to
COVID-19 vaccines for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries, the New Jersey
Department of Human Services shall provide coverage for the administration of EUA-
approved SARS-CoV-2 vaccines administered by State-approved pharmacists.
Reimbursement shall be limited to vaccine administration costs only.

New Jersey Board of Pharmacy (NJBOP)-approved pharmacy professionals choosing to
administer vaccines are required to provide SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in accordance with
the most current recommendations for vaccines and periodicity schedule of the Advisory
Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and any subsequent revision to the
schedule as formally recommended by the ACIP, as well as the FDA. New vaccines
and/or new scheduling or method of administration shall be provided as recommended
by the ACIP. Pharmacists are required to remain current regarding recommendations
and guidance found on the New Jersey Department of Health website at
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml> and the NJBOP at
<https://casetext.com/regulation/new-jersey-administrative-code/title-13-law-and-public-safety/chapter-39-state-board-of-pharmacy/subchapter-4-pharmacy-permit-requirements/section-1339-421-procedures-for-physician-ordered-or-government-sponsored-immunizations-performed-by-pharmacists>.

The FDA and the NJBOP determine age limits for administration of SARS-CoV-2
vaccines. Two (2) doses of certain EUA-approved SARS-CoV-2 vaccine are required to
complete the immunization regimen for a beneficiary. SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are
currently available at no cost. In lieu of a dispensing fee which is routinely reimbursed for
dispensing a purchased vaccine, pharmacies shall be reimbursed an administration fee.

The amount of the fee is different for the first and second dose of an administered SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. Reimbursement for administration of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines shall be equivalent to Medicare-established rates.

ACTION: Effective immediately, the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare Program shall provide coverage and reimbursement for the administration of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines offered to eligible beneficiaries only if they meet the standards and timing determined by the New Jersey Department of Health. SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are currently available at no cost.

SARS-CoV-2 Administration Reimbursement

Current Medicare rates for administration of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines requiring a two (2)-dose regimen are \$16.94 for the first dose and \$28.39 for the second dose. If single-dose vaccines are approved in the future, they will be reimbursed at the same rate as the second dose.

Billing Procedures

- When billing for the administration of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine by a pharmacist, pharmacies are required to populate the **420-DK field, “Submission Clarification Code (SCC),”** with the value of “02” for the first dose and a value of “06” for the second dose. This will ensure that the correct administration fee is paid based on the dose administered as a component of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine regimen.

Medicare payment rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration will be \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines. For single-dose vaccines, pharmacies are required to populate the 420-DK field, “Submission Clarification Code (SCC),” with the value of “02”.
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- When a paid POS claim is found in history for the first dose of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, the POS system will monitor the second dose of the vaccine provided to the same beneficiary to ensure that the timeframe between the first and second dose is greater than or equal to 28 days for the Moderna vaccine, greater than or equal to 21 days for the Pfizer vaccine, or greater than or equal to the number of days required under current FDA guidance for these vaccines and other two-dose vaccines (Error Code 2349).
- When a paid POS claim is found in history for the first dose of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine and the National Drug Code (NDC) billed for the second dose of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for the same beneficiary does not match the NDC of the first dose, the vaccine administration claim shall be denied payment (Error Code 2347).
- To distinguish between claims for vaccines “dispensed” and vaccines “administered” by pharmacies are also required to populate the **440-E5 field, “Professional Service Code,”** with the value “MA”. The value “MA” shall be interpreted to mean that a pharmacy certifies that the administration complies with Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare policies and rules

specific to immunizations. Claims billed for payment of SAR-CoV-2 vaccines shall be denied payment by the POS system unless the “MA” value is reported (Error Code 2345).

- Pharmacies must also submit a dollar amount in the **438-E3 field, “Incentive Amount Submitted,”** for their vaccine administration charge. The amount paid for the vaccine administration shall be returned in the **521-FL field, “Incentive Fee Paid.”**

Additional Requirements

- The pharmacy is responsible for updating the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIIS) with immunization information related to the SAR-CoV-2 vaccine within forty-eight (48) hours of administration. Pharmacist should also make an attempt to review the NJIIIS system prior to providing the vaccine to avoid duplication.

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please contact Gainwell Technology (formerly DXC Technology) Provider Services at 1-800-776-6334.

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