

IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT202196 NOVEMBER 2, 2021

IHCP adds coverage for COVID-19 vaccine counseling, effective Nov. 2, 2021

As part of the effort to increase vaccination rates among Indiana Medicaid recipients, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will reimburse providers for providing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine information and/or education to members. The IHCP will cover procedure code 99401 – *Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 15 minutes*, effective for dates of service (DOS) on or after Nov. 2, 2021.



Current Procedural Terminology (CPT^{®1}) code 99401 is reimbursable even when a member decides against vaccination after counseling. CPT code 99401 is restricted to one unit per day, per **unvaccinated** member, per provider. When billing, providers must include modifier 25 – *Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure or other service*, or the claim detail will deny.

Providers should follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended steps for tailoring messages:

- Step 1: Understand the patient's knowledge, perceptions, beliefs, motivations and barriers related to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Step 2: Communicate information in the patient's preferred language.
- Step 3: Focus on the patient's "why" or motivation for getting vaccinated.
- Step 4: Provide details on how to get vaccinated.

Procedure code 99401 with modifier 25 is reimbursable for the following provider types:

- 31 – *Physician* (all specialties)
- 10 – *Physician Assistant* (specialty 100)
- 09 – *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse* (all specialties except specialty 094 – *Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist*)

Coverage applies to fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care claims for COVID-19 vaccine counseling, billed on professional claims (CMS-1500 claim form, IHCP Provider Healthcare Portal [Portal] professional claim or 837P electronic transaction) and outpatient claims (UB-04 claim form, Portal institutional claim or 837I electronic transactions) with DOS on or after Nov. 2, 2021. Coverage applies to all Traditional Medicaid and other IHCP programs that include full Medicaid State Plan benefits including Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Care Connect, and Hoosier Healthwise. CPT code 99401 with modifier 25 can **only** be billed for COVID-19 counseling in the unvaccinated eligible member population (ages 6 months and up).

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The following coverage and reimbursement information applies:

- Pricing:
 - Professional: \$28.92 per counseling session; resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) pricing method.
 - Outpatient: Flat rate revenue code
- Prior Authorization: None required



E/M and 99401

Providers are allowed separate reimbursement for procedure code 99401 from the evaluation and management (E/M) service. Providers must bill modifier 25 even if a separate E/M is not billed. For outpatient claims, procedure code 99401 with modifier 25 is reimbursed the flat fee of the appropriate treatment room revenue code. As a reminder, treatment room services are reimbursed at a flat rate that includes most drugs, injections and supplies. See the *Treatment Room Visits* section of the [Outpatient Facilities Services](#) provider reference module for more information.

Telehealth

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, providers must bill for services rendered through telehealth using the place of service (POS) code that would have been reported had the service been furnished in person with modifier GT – *Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems*. Therefore, COVID-19 vaccine counseling rendered via telehealth must be billed with CPT code 99401, with both the 25 and GT modifiers. This change applies only to professional claims (CMS-1500 claim form or electronic equivalent).

Note: When providing CPT 99401 with modifier 25 via telehealth, do not bill POS 02, nor include modifier 95. Billing in this manner will result in denial of the claim.

Vaccines and 99401

COVID-19 vaccination counseling is separately reimbursable from the COVID-19 vaccine. Providers are encouraged to vaccinate members following the counseling session when applicable. Providers are also encouraged to provide any additional vaccines during the same encounter. IHCP policies remain unchanged. See the *Drug Administration Fees* section of the [Injections, Vaccines and Other Physician-Administered Drugs](#) provider reference module for more information.

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