

IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT202278 SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

IHCP expands stand-alone COVID-19 vaccine counseling for EPSDT-eligible members

The Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) announced in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT202247](#) reimbursement for stand-alone coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination counseling as part of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Effective Oct. 20, 2022, the IHCP will reimburse IHCP-enrolled pharmacies for stand-alone COVID-19 vaccination counseling for IHCP-enrolled members who are eligible for EPSDT provisions, and COVID-19 vaccine administration coverage as required by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released [Medicaid and CHIP Coverage of Stand-alone Vaccine Counseling](#) guidance. This CMS guidance states that stand-alone COVID-19 vaccine counseling, when provided as part of the EPSDT mandate, should include practitioners authorized to administer COVID-19 and childhood vaccines under the Health and Human Services (HHS) [Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#) declaration.

The IHCP will reimburse IHCP-enrolled pharmacies for up to four COVID-19 vaccine stand-alone counseling sessions per member annually when performed by a pharmacist authorized to order and administer the COVID-19 vaccine per the PREP Act, while the PREP Act is in place. If a COVID-19 vaccine is administered to the member, the provider should bill for the vaccine administration only and not for stand-alone vaccine counseling. (Please reference IHCP bulletin [BT202272](#) for billing and reimbursement guidance on pharmacy claims for COVID-19 vaccine administration.)

Stand-alone vaccine counseling sessions are to be documented in the pharmacy record, are subject to audit and must include confirmation of the following:

- The EPSDT-eligible member was in need of a COVID-19 vaccination per [CDC recommendations](#)
- The member's vaccination status was confirmed in the Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP)
- Consent to receive counseling was given by the member (or by the member's parent, guardian or caregiver)



- The member (or member's parent, guardian or caregiver) was educated on:
 - The safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines
 - Information on how to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine*
- Questions asked by the member (or by the member's parent, guardian or caregiver) regarding COVID-19 vaccination were answered
- The duration of the counselling session was a minimum of 15 minutes

**Please note, if COVID-19 vaccination is contraindicated, the counseling session is not reimbursable.*

Fee-for-service (FFS) pharmacy claims will be submitted through OptumRx, using the standard point-of-sale (POS) system or via paper pharmacy claims. POS pharmacy claims for stand-alone vaccine counseling will be reimbursed at \$28.92 when submitted using the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) D.0 claim format and Drug Utilization Review (DUR)/Professional Pharmacy Services (PPS) claim segment as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of pharmacy POS NCPDP codes for stand-alone COVID-19 vaccine counseling for EPSDT-eligible members

Field #	NCPDP field name	Value
1Ø1-A1	BIN NUMBER	ØØ1553
1Ø2-A2	VERSION/RELEASE NUMBER	DØ
1Ø3-A3	TRANSACTION CODE	B1, B3 (Rx Billing, Reversal)
1Ø4-A4	PROCESSOR CONTROL NUMBER	INM
436-E1	PRODUCT/SERVICE ID QUALIFIER	Ø9 = Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
4Ø7-D7	PRODUCT/SERVICE ID	99429- ØØØØ-ØØ
466-EZ	PRESCRIBER ID QUALIFIER	Ø1 = National Provider Identifier (NPI)
411-DB	PRESCRIBER/PHARMACY/ PHARMACIST ID	Enter the 1Ø-digit NPI Note: Claims submitted using an individual pharmacist's or pharmacy NPI will be rejected for nonenrolled provider. Submission clarification code (SCC) 42 will be needed to override reject 71 – Provider not covered.
442-E7	QUANTITY DISPENSED	1
4Ø3-D3	FILL NUMBER	ØØ
4Ø5-D5	DAYS SUPPLY	1

Table 1 – Summary of pharmacy POS NCPDP codes for stand-alone COVID-19 vaccine counseling for EPSDT-eligible members (Continued)

Field #	NCPDP field name	Value
439-E4	REASON FOR SERVICE CODE	PH = Preventive Health Care Code indicating that the provided professional service was to educate the patient regarding measures mitigating possible adverse effects or maximizing the benefits of the product(s) dispensed; or measures to optimize health status, prevent recurrence or exacerbation of problems.
440-E5	PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CODE	SC = Self-Care Consultation Code indicating activities performed by a pharmacist on behalf of a patient intended to allow the patient to function more effectively on his or her own behalf in health promotion and disease prevention, detection, or treatment.
441-E6	RESULT OF SERVICE CODE	3B = Recommendation Not Accepted Code indicating a cognitive service. The pharmacist reviews and evaluates a therapeutic issue (alert), and recommends a more appropriate product or regimen, but the prescriber does not concur.
426-DQ	USUAL AND CUSTOMARY CHARGE	\$28.92 or U/C amount Note: Reimbursement amount will be \$28.92 despite value entered

Please note: If the POS pharmacy claim is not submitted as instructed above, it will NOT reimburse despite processing as a paid claim.

Unlike COVID-19 vaccine administration, stand-alone COVID-19 vaccine counseling is not carved out of the managed care delivery system. For members enrolled through the FFS delivery system, please direct questions about COVID-19 stand-alone vaccine counseling or this bulletin to the OptumRx Clinical and Technical Help Desk by calling toll-free 855-577-6317. For members enrolled in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Care Connect and Hoosier Healthwise, questions about this service should be referred to the managed care entity (MCE) with which the member is enrolled.

QUESTIONS?

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