

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT2023132    OCTOBER 5, 2023

## IHCP announces COVID-19 vaccine pharmacy benefit updates for 2023-2024 season

On Sept. 11, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) the approval and authorization for emergency use of updated mRNA coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines formulated to more closely target circulating variants.

The updated Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines include a monovalent (single) component that corresponds to the Omicron variant XBB.1.5. Importantly, these new COVID-19 vaccine formulations will not be available, at no charge, from U.S. Government (USG) purchased stock but must be acquired by pharmacy providers in the same manner as other vaccines.



Effective for dates of service (DOS) on or after **Sept. 11, 2023**, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will reimburse IHCP-enrolled pharmacies for the updated 2023-2024 Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19-monovalent vaccines and their administration when given to applicable IHCP members as approved by the FDA or authorized for emergency use, and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Pharmacies that submitted claims for these vaccines with DOS on or after Sept. 11, 2023, but prior to this publication, may reprocess the claims to be reimbursed for the ingredient cost.

Additionally, effective for DOS on or after Oct. 1, 2023, point-of-sale (POS) pharmacy claims for COVID-19 vaccines should no longer be submitted using the Service Clarification Code (SCC, 420-DK) for reimbursement. Vaccines administered by the pharmacist should continue to be submitted with a Professional Service Code (440-E5) of MA to receive an administration fee. See Table 1 for billing information.

COVID-19 vaccines are available to members younger than 19 years of age through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The IHCP is unable to reimburse for the cost of vaccines that are available through the VFC program. The IHCP will reimburse VFC-enrolled pharmacies for the administration of the updated COVID-19 vaccines as established in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT202210](#).

*Table 1 – POS National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) codes and allowed amounts for COVID-19 vaccines*

	Professional Service Code (440-E5)	Service Clarification Code (SCC, 420-DK)	Incentive Amount (Administration Fee, 438-E3)
<b>Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA Vaccines</b>			
Pharmacist administration by a VFC-enrolled pharmacy	MA	Null	\$15.00
Pharmacist administration by a non-VFC-enrolled pharmacy	MA	Null	\$38.75

The IHCP will continue to comply with the Health and Human Services (HHS) *COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act* declarations and authorizations until the HHS Secretary ends this provision. As announced in *IHCP Bulletins* [BT2020127](#) and [BT202102](#), pharmacy claim reimbursement includes pharmacist-ordered vaccines administered by qualified pharmacists or pharmacist-supervised pharmacy interns or technicians.

COVID-19 vaccines are to be supplied free of charge, without copay, to all IHCP members, including members in limited benefit categories. COVID-19 vaccination claims for IHCP members who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid must be billed to the member's Medicare plan provider.

COVID-19 vaccination reimbursement is carved out of managed care benefits. Please direct pharmacy-related questions about COVID-19 vaccinations or this bulletin to the Optum Rx Clinical and Technical Help Desk by calling toll-free 855-577-6317.

Questions regarding pharmacy benefits unrelated to COVID-19 vaccinations for members in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Care Connect and Hoosier Healthwise should be referred to the managed care entity (MCE) with which the member is enrolled. For information on nonpharmacy questions about COVID-19 vaccinations or this bulletin, contact Gainwell at 800-457-4584.



**QUESTIONS?**

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