

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT202416    FEBRUARY 15, 2024

## IHCP announces updated billing guidance for Paxlovid pharmacy claims

On Oct. 13, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) that the HHS and Pfizer had reached an agreement to extend patient access to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) oral antiviral medication, Paxlovid, as it transitioned to the commercial market in November 2023. This agreement ensures individuals receiving Medicare or Medicaid and those who are uninsured can continue to receive Paxlovid at no cost through the end of 2024 via a patient assistance program.

On Dec. 1, 2023, Pfizer launched its U.S. Government Patient Assistance Program (USG PAP), [PAXCESS Patient Support Program \(iassist.com\)](#). Individuals covered under Medicare or Medicaid and uninsured patients are eligible to enroll in the PAXCESS Patient Support Program to receive commercially available Paxlovid at no cost. Patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, can enroll eligible patients in the PAXCESS Program by visiting <https://paxlovid.iassist.com/attestation> or calling 877-C19-PACK (877-219-7225). When enrolled, the individual will receive a USG PAP voucher with billing information for Paxlovid prescription claim processing when dispensed at a participating pharmacy. Pharmacies can participate in USG PAP by contacting the program vendor at [PharmacyNetworkContract102101@assistrx.com](mailto:PharmacyNetworkContract102101@assistrx.com). Alternatively, patients may have their prescription transferred to an AssistRx specialty overnight dispense pharmacy to use their USG PAP voucher and have their Paxlovid prescription delivered to their residence.

The HHS and Pfizer have also announced the implementation of a process for state Medicaid programs to collect manufacturer rebates on commercially available Paxlovid products, enabling them to process pharmacy claims in the same manner as other covered outpatient drugs. As a result, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will collect rebates for all pharmacy claims submitted for commercial Paxlovid products. Covered entities (CEs) participating in the 340B program must continue to obtain no-cost Paxlovid through their current channels or use the PAXCESS program for the IHCP members they serve. To prevent duplicate discounts, CEs should *not* bill the IHCP using 340B product for dates of service (DOS) on or after Feb. 15, 2024. IHCP-enrolled pharmacies may submit claims for emergency use authorization (EUA) Paxlovid products only for dispensing fee reimbursement. Pharmacy claims for COVID-19 oral antivirals should be submitted to the plan in which the member is enrolled.

As established in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT202266](#), the IHCP will reimburse IHCP-enrolled pharmacy providers for Paxlovid pharmacy claims ordered by a pharmacist per the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [Paxlovid EUA](#) and the [HHS Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#) guidance.



As a reminder, COVID-19 vaccination reimbursement remains “carved out” of the managed care benefits, as established in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT2020127](#). COVID-19 vaccine reimbursement through the IHCP pharmacy benefit has been updated to reflect geographically adjusted Medicare rates. Pharmacies that submitted COVID-19 vaccine claims with DOS on or after **Sept. 11, 2023**, but prior to this publication, will be reprocessed to correct underpayment. IHCP-covered COVID-19 vaccine product information can be found on the *COVID-19 Vaccination Information* page under the Preferred Products tab on the [Optum Rx Indiana Medicaid website](#).

As established in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT2023132](#), the 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. For IHCP members eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, the IHCP will reimburse for COVID-19 vaccine administration, as established in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT202210](#) and continue compliance with the [HHS Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#) declarations, as outlined in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT2023162](#).

Please direct pharmacy-related questions about COVID-19 vaccinations, COVID-19 oral antivirals for fee-for-service (FFS) members or this bulletin to the Optum Rx Clinical and Technical Help Desk by calling toll-free 855-577-6317. Questions about COVID-19 oral antivirals and pharmacy claim submission 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 more information on nonpharmacy questions about COVID-19 vaccinations, contact Gainwell Technologies Customer Assistance at 800-457-4584 or your [Provider Relations consultant](#).

### QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Customer Assistance at 800-457-4584.

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