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
Stephen R. Russo, JD
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 27, 2023

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

FROM: Tara A. LeBlanc, Medicaid Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Adult Vaccine Coverage Policy Update

Effective August 1, 2023, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will update the adult vaccine policy. The adult vaccine coverage applies to pharmacy claims submitted to FFS and Louisiana Medicaid MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

Louisiana Medicaid FFS Pharmacy Program and MCOs cover select adult vaccines for beneficiaries over age 18. The covered vaccines are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Adult vaccines are reimbursed when administered by a pharmacist with the "Authority to Administer" authorized by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

Pharmacist Requirements

Vaccine reimbursement includes reimbursement for the ingredient cost and administration fee. For adult vaccine reimbursement, the pharmacist shall:

- be registered with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy with the "Authority to Administer" vaccines.
- be registered as a Louisiana Medicaid provider.
- inform the individual that the administration of an immunization or vaccine is not to be construed as being in lieu of an annual preventive visit with the individual's primary care or family physician.
- access the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids (LINKS) prior to immunization administration, if possible, to verify appropriate utilization according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to prevent duplication, unnecessary doses, inappropriate age, etc.

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- report each immunization to the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health's LINKS at the time of the immunization or as soon as reasonably possible, thereafter.
- report all adverse events observed or which are reported to the pharmacist to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, or its successor program; and further, the pharmacist shall refer the patient with an adverse event to appropriate medical care.
- request the name of a patient's primary care provider prior to the administering of any immunization. The pharmacist shall notify the primary care provider, by written or electronic communication, as soon as reasonably possible that the immunization was administered.

Adult Vaccine Billing

Louisiana Medicaid enrolled pharmacies will be reimbursed for the ingredient cost and administration fee when billing adult vaccines administered by a pharmacist.

The FFS administration fee for adult vaccines is \$15.22 for the first injection, then \$9.13 for each additional injection with the same date of service. The FFS administration fee for a nasal vaccine is \$10.80.

All 340B pharmacies carved-in to Medicaid may bill vaccines and the administration fee for adults (19 years and older) at Point of Sale as a pharmacy benefit. Claim level indicators should not be included as vaccines are not 340B or rebate eligible.

There will be no copay assessed on adult vaccine claims. Third party billing policy will apply and Medicaid will be the payer of last resort.

Pharmacy claims for vaccines will bypass FFS Point of Sale edits for the four prescription monthly limit and pharmacy Lock-In.

Influenza vaccine coverage for the current Influenza Season 2023-2024, will begin on September 15, 2023.

COVID-19 and smallpox/monkeypox vaccines will be reimbursed an administration fee only, since the federal government covers the ingredient cost.

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The chart lists select adult vaccines payable as a FFS and MCO pharmacy claim.

Vaccines	Brand Name Examples	Age Limit
BCG LIVE <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	BCG (TICE Strain)	≥ 19 years
COVID	Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax	*
<i>H. influenzae</i> Type B Conjugate <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	Hiberix	≥ 19 years
Hepatitis A Adult	Vaqta®, Havrix®	≥ 19 years
Hepatitis A – Hepatitis B Adult	Twinrix®	≥ 19 years
Hepatitis B Adult (recombinant adjuvanted)	Heplisav-B®	≥ 19 years
Hepatitis B Adult (recombinant)	Engerix-B®, <i>Recombivax HB</i> ®	≥ 19 years
Hepatitis B vaccine [trivalent (recombinant)]	PreHevbrio®	≥ 19 years
HPV – Human Papillomavirus 9-valent	Gardasil®9	19-45 years
Influenza Vaccine	Various Brands	*
Japanese Encephalitis <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	Ixiaro	≥ 19 years
Measles, Mumps & Rubella	M-M-R®II, Priorix®	≥ 19 years
Meningococcal Conjugate (Groups A, C, Y and W-135)	Menveo®, Menactra®, MenQuadfi®	≥ 19 years
MENB – Meningococcal Group B	Trumenba®, Bexsero®	≥ 19 years
Pneumococcal – 13-valent	Prevnar 13™	≥ 19 years
Pneumococcal – 15-valent	Vaxneuvance™	≥ 19 years
Pneumococcal – 20-valent	Prevnar 20™	≥ 19 years
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (23-valent)	Pneumovax®23	≥ 19 years
Poliomyelitis <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	Ipol	> 19 years
Rabies Vaccine	Imovax®, RabAvert®	≥ 19 years
RSV Vaccine, Pref A and Pref B <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	Abrysvo	≥ 60 years
RSVPREF3 Antigen <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	Arexvy Kit, Arexvy Vial	≥ 60 years
Smallpox and Monkeypox	Jynneos	*
Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids	TDVAX®, <i>Tenivac</i> ®	≥ 19 years
Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis	Adacel®, Boostrix®	≥ 19 years
Varicella	Varivax®	≥ 19 years
Yellow Fever <i>Effective 8/1/23</i>	Stamaril, YF-Vax	≥ 19 years
Zoster Vaccine Recombinant, adjuvanted	Shingrix®	≥ 18 years

*Age limits are based on prescribing information and PREP ACT guidance. The administration fee only will be reimbursed for recipients 18 years and younger.

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If you have questions about the content of this memo, you may contact the FFS pharmacy help desk by phone at (800) 437-9101.

If you have questions about pharmacy claims billing, you may contact the appropriate plan at their pharmacy help desk listed in the chart below.

Healthcare Provider	Pharmacy Help Desk	Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Number
Aetna	CVS Health	(855) 364-2977
AmeriHealth Caritas	PerformRx	(800) 684-5502
Fee for Service	Gainwell Technologies	(800) 648-0790
Healthy Blue	CVS	(833) 236-6194
Humana Healthy Horizons	Gainwell Technologies	(800) 648-0790
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	CVS Caremark	(800) 311-0543
UnitedHealthcare	Optum Rx	(866) 328-3108

Please forward this notice to other providers to assist with notification. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts to coordinate care and improve health are greatly appreciated.

TL/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
Melwyn B. Wendt
Gainwell Technologies