




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

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 12, 2021

**TO:** All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

**FROM:** Patrick Gillies, Medicaid Executive Director 

**SUBJECT:** Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy COVID-19 Vaccine Billing Update for Age Requirement, Third Dose and Booster Shot

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Public Health Emergency (PHE), and COVID-19 delta variant spread, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program updated coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine coverage was updated to include a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of (Pfizer and Moderna) for immunocompromised recipients on September 1, 2021. The third dose is administered in people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems, to improve their response to the initial vaccine series. Coverage for a booster shot of any COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen) for recipients 18 years of age and older will be implemented on November 15, 2021 with an October 20, 2021 effective date. A booster shot is given when a person has completed the vaccine series and their protection against the COVID-19 virus has decreased over time. This memo will give updated billing information for pharmacy claims submitted to FFS Medicaid and Louisiana Medicaid MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

**Age Requirements**

The FDA has authorized Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in children ages 5-11. In addition, the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are covered for recipients 18 years of age and older. Additional age requirements will be updated pending FDA approval.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements for 3<sup>rd</sup> Dose (See Booster Shot Information on Next Page)**

Pharmacy claims will be reimbursed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna only) in immunocompromised recipients. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose must be the same manufacturer as the previously administered COVID-19 vaccine series.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements for Booster Shot**

The booster shot is reimbursed for all three COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen) in a broader population with waning immunity, in recipients 18 years of age and older. The booster shot can be of any approved COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer (Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen) allowing a “mix and match” of previously administered COVID-19 vaccines.

### **At Home COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**

Pharmacy claims will be reimbursed for at home administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, when applicable.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement**

The federal government covers the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, Louisiana Medicaid will reimburse enrolled pharmacies for the **administration fee only** for COVID-19 vaccines. The administration fee per injection of the COVID-19 vaccine is \$37.08 or billed charges, whichever is the lesser amount. No dispensing fee shall be reimbursed, only administration fee. Currently, the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), Pfizer, and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines administration are covered by Louisiana Medicaid pharmacy program. After administration of the first dose, the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine may be filled as early as day 17 for the Pfizer product and day 24 for the Moderna product. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose (for Pfizer and Moderna only) in immunocompromised recipients can be given 28 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. The booster shot can be administered 6 months after the initial series is completed. At home administration of the COVID-19 vaccine for any doses, will be reimbursed at \$32.60 for a total of \$69.68 (\$32.60 + \$37.08) or billed charges, whichever is the lesser amount.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Copay**

There will be no copay assessed on COVID-19 vaccine claims. Third party billing policy will apply and Medicaid will be the payer of last resort.

### **Point of Sale Bypass for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**

Pharmacy claims for COVID-19 vaccines will bypass FFS Point of Sale edits for the four prescription monthly limit and pharmacy Lock-In.

### **Pharmacist Requirements**

For COVID-19 vaccine administration 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.
- report certain data elements to the CDC for each COVID-19 dose administered within 24 hours of administration, as a vaccination 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 Louisiana Immunization Network Kids Statewide (LINKS) prior to immunization administration to verify appropriate utilization according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to prevent duplication, unnecessary doses, inappropriate age, etc., if possible.
- 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 practicable, 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.
- ensure that pharmacy technicians and/or state-authorized pharmacy interns administering COVID-19 vaccines meet PREP Act qualifications. The qualified pharmacy technicians and/or state-authorized pharmacy interns act under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist. The supervising qualified pharmacist of qualified pharmacy technicians and/or state-authorized interns must comply with CDC, state, and federal requirements for COVID-19 vaccine administration.

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**COVID-19 Vaccine Billing**

The following fields will be required as part of the Point of Sale (POS) claim:

NCPDP Field Number	NCPDP Field Name	Value	Comment
307-C7	Place of Service	12	A value of "12" for at home administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.
405-D5	Day Supply	1	A value of "1" for COVID-19 vaccines.
407-D7	Product/Service ID	11 Digit NDC	Vaccine NDC
409-D9	Ingredient Cost	\$0.00 or \$0.01	Bill a value of \$0.00 with a Basis of Cost Determination of 15 or if field cannot accept a zero value, then bill \$0.01 with a Basis of Cost Determination of 1.
420-DK	Submission Clarification Code	Initial Dose=2; Second Dose=6; <b>Third Dose=7;</b> <b>Booster Shot=10.</b>	<b>Use "7" for 3rd dose in immunocompromised recipient. Use "10" for booster shot in a broader population with waning immunity 18 years and older.</b>
423-DN	Basis of Cost Determination	15 or 1	A value of "15" (free product or no associated cost) for the COVID-19 vaccine or if ingredient cost field cannot accept \$0.00, then a value of "1" with an ingredient cost of \$0.01.
411-DB	Prescriber ID	Prescriber/Pharmacist Medicaid Number or NPI	Enter the Prescriber's LA Medicaid Issued Number or NPI <b>OR</b> in the Absence of a Prescription, the Vaccinating Pharmacist's LA Medicaid Issued Number or NPI
419-DJ	Prescription Origin Code	5	Pharmacy
438-E3	Incentive Amount Submitted	Administration Fee	Amount Charged for Vaccine Administration
473-7E	DUR/PPS Code Counter	1	Number of Occurrences
440-E5	Professional Service Code	MA	Medication Administration
442-E7	Quantity Dispensed	Value dependent on vaccine dose	Examples: Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)=0.5; Pfizer=0.3, children age 5-11=0.2; and <b>Moderna=0.5; 0.25 booster</b>
444-E9	Provider ID	Pharmacist Medicaid Number or NPI	The Vaccinating Pharmacist's LA Medicaid Issued Number or NPI
465-EY	Provider ID Qualifier	05 07	NPI State Issued

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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.

<b>Healthcare Provider</b>	<b>Pharmacy Help Desk</b>	<b>Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Number</b>
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
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.

PG/MB/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans  
Melwyn B. Wendt  
Gainwell Technologies