



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 12, 2023

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

FROM: Kimberly Sullivan, Interim Medicaid Executive Director *KLS*

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy COVID-19 Vaccines 2023-2024 Reimbursement Update

On October 23, 2023 with an effective date of September 11, 2023, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) updated coverage of COVID-19 vaccines 2023-2024 to include ingredient cost reimbursement. This memo will give updated billing information for **pharmacy claims** submitted to FFS Medicaid and Louisiana Medicaid MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

COVID-19 Vaccines 2023-24

The FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines 2023-2024 formula. These vaccines were developed to provide better protection against circulating variants of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement

The ingredient cost of the COVID-19 vaccines is no longer free to pharmacies from the federal government. Therefore, Louisiana Medicaid will reimburse enrolled pharmacies for the **administration fee and ingredient cost** (at WAC for local pharmacies) of COVID-19 vaccines for recipients nineteen years of age and older. The **administration fee only** will be reimbursed in recipients under nineteen years of age since the vaccines are available through the Louisiana Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The PREP Act allows vaccine administration by pharmacist for ages 3-6 years until January 1, 2025. The administration fee per injection of the COVID-19 vaccine aligns with other vaccines. The maximum vaccine administration fee is \$15.22 for the 1st vaccine, and \$9.13 for each additional vaccine administered on the same date of service. Counseling for vaccines will be reimbursed for recipients less than 21 years old when the vaccine is administered and criteria has been met. No dispensing fee shall be

reimbursed, only administration fee. No “at home” administration fee for COVID vaccines will be accepted.

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.

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.

COVID-19 Vaccines 2023-2024 Reimbursement Update

October 12, 2023

Page 3

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
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	Usual and Customary	Usual and Customary Charge of the Vaccine
420-DK	Submission Clarification Code	Initial Dose=2; Second Dose=6; Third Dose=7; Booster Shot=10.	Use “7” for 3rd dose in immunocompromised recipient. Use “10” for any booster shot.
411-DB	Prescriber ID	Prescriber/Pharmacist Medicaid Number or NPI	Enter the Prescriber’s LA Medicaid Issued Number or NPI OR 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	The value of the vaccine dose.
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

Note: COVID vaccine claims will deny when 423-DN (Basis of Cost Determination) is submitted with a 15 (free product or no associated cost) with M/I Basis of Cost Determination (NCPDP DN).

COVID-19 Vaccines 2023-2024 Reimbursement Update

October 12, 2023

Page 4

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, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, UnitedHealthcare	Magellan*	(800) 424-1664
Fee for Service	Gainwell Technologies	(800) 648-0790

* On October 23, 2023, the Magellan pharmacy help desk will be the appropriate contact for the MCO plans.

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.

KS/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
Melwyn B. Wendt
Gainwell Technologies

Enclosure

COVID-19 Vaccines 2023-2024

COVID-19 Vaccine Brand Name	Age Range	Effective Date
COMIRNATY 2023-2024	12 years and up	9/11/2023
PFIZER COVID 2023-24 (6M-4Y) EUA	3-4 years	9/11/2023
PFIZER COVID (5-11Y) 2023-24	5-11 years	9/11/2023
SPIKEVAX 2023-2024	12 years and up	9/11/2023
MODERNA COVID 23-24(6M-11Y)EUA	3-11 years	9/11/2023
NOVAVAX	12 years and up	10/3/2023

*PREP Act allows vaccine administration by pharmacist for ages 3-6 years until January 1, 2025.