



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 6, 2023

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

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

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Counseling for Vaccines-
Implementation Postponed to October 28, 2023

The original implementation date of October 1, 2023 was postponed to a new implementation date of October 28, 2023. Effective October 28, 2023, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), will reimburse for counseling for vaccines for recipients less than 21 years old when the vaccine is administered and criteria has been met. This policy applies to pharmacy claims submitted to FFS and MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

Policy

Counseling for vaccines will be reimbursed for recipients less than 21 years old when the vaccine is administered and criteria has been met.

Criteria

The following criteria must be followed to receive reimbursement for vaccine counseling:

- Confirm that the patient is not currently “up-to-date” with vaccine dosing, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
- Confirm vaccination status in the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS), whenever possible; and
- Confirm patient consent of the parent, guardian or caregiver (if appropriate) to receive the counseling and vaccine; and
- Document the type and brand of the vaccine or booster; and
- Confirm the Medicaid recipient is (for counseling reimbursement):
 - From 3-20 years old for COVID-19 vaccine; or
 - From 3-20 years old for all other vaccines.

- Counsel the patient, along with their parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate) on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines; and
- Answer any questions that the patient or parent, guardian, or caregiver has regarding vaccination; and
- Counsel the patient, along with their parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate) for a minimum of five minutes; and
- Administer the vaccine.

*Note: PREP Act allows administration of vaccines by a pharmacist for ages 3-6 years until January 1, 2025.

Billing

The ingredient cost of the vaccine will not be reimbursed for recipients under the age of nineteen, as these vaccines are available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. If Medicaid is billed for a recipient 18 years or younger, the administration fee (when vaccine is given) and counseling fee will be reimbursed for these recipients, but not the ingredient cost.

Medicaid shall reimburse for counseling for vaccines as a pharmacy benefit in an amount up to \$19.72 (\$19.72 or billed amount, whichever is lower) when the criteria is met and documented, (documentation would be verified with audit), with vaccine administration.

Counseling may be reimbursed for up to **four administered vaccines per recipient per year** as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when the member has not already received the recommended dose.

Reimbursement shall be based on age of the recipient and the Professional Service Code (440-E5) submitted as described in detail below.

Professional Service Code (440-E5) values:

- ***“MA” Professional Service Code for administration only***
- ***“PE” Professional Service Code for administration and counseling***

The administration fee will continue to be reimbursed when either “PE” or “MA” are present on the claim.

When Professional Service Code “PE” is submitted in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) on a vaccine pharmacy claim, an additional amount up to \$19.72 (\$19.72 or billed amount, whichever is lower) will be reimbursed to the pharmacy provider for counseling on top of the administration fee.

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Reimbursement according to age of recipient for vaccine, administration and/or counseling	Age 3-18 years	Age 19-20 years	Age 21 years and older
NCPDP field 506-F6 (Ingredient Cost Paid)	Always \$0.00 No ingredient cost reimbursed in this age group	“MA” or “PE” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Up to maximum allowable unless COVID or monkeypox, then \$0.00	“MA” or “PE” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Up to maximum allowable unless COVID or monkeypox, then \$0.00
NCPDP field 521-FL (Incentive Amount Paid)	“MA” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Vaccines: \$15.22 for first vaccine or \$9.13 for second vaccine billed on the same day (no counseling reimbursed with “MA”) “PE” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Vaccines: \$15.22 for first vaccine or \$9.13 for second vaccine billed on the same day AND \$19.72 (counseling) or billed amount, whichever is lower	“MA” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Vaccines: \$15.22 for first vaccine or \$9.13 for second vaccine billed on the same day (no counseling reimbursed with “MA”) “PE” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Vaccines: \$15.22 for first vaccine or \$9.13 for second vaccine billed on the same day AND \$19.72 (counseling) or billed amount, whichever is lower	“MA” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Vaccines: \$15.22 for first vaccine or \$9.13 for second vaccine billed on the same day (no counseling reimbursed with “MA”) “PE” in NCPDP field 440-E5 (Professional Service Code) Vaccines: \$15.22 for first vaccine or \$9.13 for second vaccine billed on the same day No counseling reimbursed with “MA” or “PE” in this age group
NCPDP field 481-HA (flat sales tax submitted)	\$0.10 when Medicaid is primary payor. \$0.00 when Medicaid is secondary payor (primary paid >\$0.00)	\$0.10 when Medicaid is primary payor. \$0.00 when Medicaid is secondary payor (primary paid >\$0.00)	\$0.10 when Medicaid is primary payor. \$0.00 when Medicaid is secondary payor (primary paid >\$0.00)

Additional Information:

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