

MCG message

Title: **COVID-19 vaccine pharmacy billing and reimbursement - update**

Posting date: **September 30, 2021**

Summary: Blue Cross Complete provides COVID-19 vaccine coverage under the pharmacy benefit for eligible members. This update provides the following information:

- **Details for billing COVID-19 immunization**
 - There is a temporary requirement for an additional dose due to a coding conflict that is being resolved
- **Final reminder regarding the enhanced administration fee incentive**
 - Enhanced incentive granting an additional \$10 reimbursement ends September 30, 2021

Billing for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccines:

Effective August 12, 2021, Blue Cross Complete is covering additional doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in alignment with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. Administration of additional doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines will be reimbursed at \$37.85.

Blue Cross Complete members receiving the vaccine will have a \$0 copay.

To receive reimbursement for the administration fee incentive, pharmacies must submit claims in accordance with National Council for Prescription Drug Programs guidance as outlined below:

- Professional service code (NCPDP field 440-E5) = "MA" (Medication Administered)
- Incentive amount submitted (NCPDP field 438-E3)
- Submission Clarification Codes:
 - SCC = 2 indicates a first dose
 - SCC = 6 indicates a final dose
 - SCC = 7 indicates an additional dose
 - **Temporary coding for additional dose** – please also submit SCC 6 or SCC 2 in addition to SCC 7 to ensure claim payment. A coding update for SCC 7 as a standalone code is pending.
- Under all SCCs, Blue Cross Complete will reimburse a \$37.85 incentive fee.



- To override prescriber edits when the pharmacist is applying prescriptive authority, pharmacies must submit:
 - A prescription origin code '5' (NCPDP field 419-DJ)
 - An additional SCC value of 42
- Basis of cost determination '15' (free product or no associated cost – NCPDP field 423-DN)

For more information on billing for COVID-19 vaccine administration, please visit ncpdp.org* to download and review the [NCPCP Emergency Preparedness Guidance](#)*.

Increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates – temporary administration fee enhancement:

As a reminder, Blue Cross Complete is currently paying an additional administration fee of \$10 during August and September 2021. A total of \$47.85 per COVID-19 vaccine dose administered will be reimbursed to the pharmacy for previously unvaccinated members. The enhanced administration fee is to provide additional reimbursement as pharmacies continue to work to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates throughout the state of Michigan.

- ***As of 10/1/2021, the administration fee reimbursement will revert back to \$37.85.***

The relationships you establish with your patients, along with the additional education you provide to promote safe and effective vaccination, is essential to increasing vaccination rates. Your attention to this effort is appreciated. For claims assistance, please see below.

- Pharmacies experiencing any difficulties in processing prescription claims should call the **PerformRx Pharmacy Help Desk** for assistance at **1-888-989-0057**.
 - Error messaging is provided for all denied claims.
 - Supplemental messaging is provided when possible.
 - Additional formulary information can be found at the following websites:
 - mibluccrosscomplete.com/pharmacy > [Preferred drug list](#) (PDF)
 - michigan.gov/mcopharmacy*
 - michigan.magellanrx.com/provider*
- Members can call Pharmacy Customer Service at 1-888-288-3231 with any questions related to their pharmacy benefit.

Questions

We appreciate your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions, please contact your Blue Cross Complete provider account executive or call Provider Inquiry at **1-888-312-5713**.

*Our website is mibluccrosscomplete.com. While website addresses for other organizations are provided for reference, Blue Cross Complete does not control these sites and is not responsible for their content.