IHCP *bulletin*

IHCP announces pharmacy reimbursement for COVID-19 bivalent booster administration

On Aug. 31, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it had amended the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) to include bivalent formulations of the vaccines for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. These bivalent formulations contain messenger RNA (mRNA) components of the original SARS-CoV-2 strain as well as BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant.

On Sept. 1–2, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to discuss and ultimately recommend:

- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent, for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent, for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older

Effective immediately, for dates of service (DOS) on and after Sept. 2, 2022, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will reimburse IHCP-enrolled pharmacies for the administration of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent to members ages 18 and older and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent to members ages 12 and older who have completed a primary COVID-19 vaccination series at least two months following the last vaccine of the series or booster dose. Corresponding updates to the Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine procedure codes for the medical benefit are forthcoming.

As established in IHCP Bulletins *BT2020127* and *BT202102,* pharmacy claim reimbursement includes pharmacist-ordered vaccines administered by qualified pharmacists or pharmacist-supervised pharmacy interns or technicians.

Pharmacy providers must submit vaccine administration pharmacy claims using point-of-sale (POS) National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) codes as described in Table 1.

Table 1 – POS NCPDP codes and allowed amounts for Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA Bivalent vaccines

	Professional service code (440-E5)	Service clarification code (SCC, 420-DK)	Incentive amount (Administration fee, 438-E3)	Basis of cost (423-DN)	Ingredient cost (409-D9)
Booster Dose	MA	7 or 10	$37.21	15	$0.00 or $0.01

Pharmacy claims for doses that do not correspond to the EUA or FDA labeling for that dose will deny displaying NCPDP reject code 76 – *Plan Limitation Exceeded* and will provide additional messaging pertaining to the age limits.

COVID-19 vaccines are to be supplied free of charge, without copay, to all IHCP members, including members in limited benefit categories. COVID-19 vaccination claims for IHCP members who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid must be billed to the member's Medicare plan provider.

COVID-19 vaccination reimbursement is carved out of managed care benefits. Please direct pharmacy-related questions about COVID-19 vaccinations or this bulletin to the OptumRx Clinical and Technical Help Desk by calling toll-free 855-577-6317.

Questions regarding pharmacy benefits unrelated to COVID-19 vaccinations for members in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Care Connect and Hoosier Healthwise should be referred to the managed care entity (MCE) with which the member is enrolled.

For information on nonpharmacy questions about COVID-19 vaccinations or this bulletin, contact Gainwell at 800-457-4584.

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