



# MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Every physician matters, each patient counts.*

As of 12/11/2020

## COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and Reimbursement Update

### **Massachusetts**

There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine or ancillary kits. CMS is approving reimbursement for the administration of the vaccine, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is working with insurers and MassHealth to honor this.

Providers must administer COVID-19 vaccine regardless of the vaccine recipient's ability to pay COVID-19 vaccine administration fees or coverage status. Providers may seek appropriate reimbursement from a program or plan that covers COVID-19 vaccine administration fees for the vaccine recipient. Providers may not seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the vaccine recipient.

Learn more [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions – Vaccine Providers](#)

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### **AMA: COVID-19 CPT vaccine and Immunization Codes**

New Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes have been created that streamline the reporting of immunizations for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19).

- [COVID-19 CPT vaccine and immunization codes - AMA](#)
- [Quick reference guide to the coding structure for Covid-19 vaccine CPT reporting](#)

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### **Insurance Plans - Payment Information**

<b>Aetna</b>
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Aetna is waiving member cost-sharing related to COVID-19 vaccination for Commercial and Medicaid members. For Medicare, CMS has indicated it will cover the full cost of the vaccine for all Medicare beneficiaries, including those in a Medicare Advantage plan, in 2020 and 2021.

Aetna will cover COVID-19 vaccine administration fees without cost-sharing, for both in- and out-of-network providers, for Commercial and Medicaid members.

CMS has indicated it will pay for the cost of the vaccine for all Medicare beneficiaries, including those in a Medicare Advantage plan, in 2020 and 2021. Aetna will cover any COVID-19 vaccine that has received FDA authorization, either through an Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) or licensed under a Biologics License Application (BLA), at no cost to members.

Aetna Health Care Professionals FAQs: <https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/covid-faq/vaccines.html.html>

#### **Cigna**

The vaccine will be covered as a preventive service. Initially, the cost of the vaccine serum will be paid by the government. We expect that providers' charges for administering the vaccine will be paid under your Cigna medical plan, the same as any other immunization administration charge. We also expect that members enrolled in plans that cover preventive services at 100% will incur no additional cost. The federal government is committed to providing the vaccine itself to the American public at no cost. In addition, the federal government has released interim final regulations with respect to Medicare, Medicare Advantage (MA), Medicaid, and private health plans that includes a requirement there be no cost sharing for patients and other specifics on vaccine administration pricing for both in- and out-of-network providers during the public health emergency (PHE). As such, and as a condition of receiving the vaccines free from the federal government, providers will likely not be able to charge patients for vaccine administration, and plans must reimburse providers for administration at an amount that is reasonable. A payment at the Medicare rate for vaccine administration will be considered reasonable.

To learn more visit <https://www.cigna.com/coronavirus/>

#### **Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts follows federal- and state-mandated requirements for COVID-19 treatment coverage. For the commercial products (managed care HMO and POS, PPO, and Indemnity),

BCBS MA will accept the following CPT codes for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Vaccine Manufacturer	CPT Code	Administrative Codes
Pfizer	93100	0001A 0002A
<u>Moderna</u>	93101	0011A 0021A

For Medicare plans, please do not bill with these codes. Instead, submit claims for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to the CMS Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for payment.

BCBS MA is following guidelines from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association regarding coverage for Federal Employee Program members. For more details please visit [fepblue.org](http://fepblue.org).

This is in place for the duration of the state of emergency. To learn more click [here](#).

### Medicare Part B

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a set of [toolkits](#) for providers, states, and insurers to help the health care system deliver these products once available. These resources are designed to increase the number of providers that can administer the products and ensure adequate reimbursement from Medicare while making it clear to private insurers and Medicaid programs of their responsibility to cover these products at no charge to beneficiaries. Because the initial supply of COVID-19 vaccines will be federally purchased, this toolkit primarily focuses on coverage of vaccine administration. Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at **no cost**.

- [Enrollment for Administering COVID-19 Vaccine Shots](#)
- [Coding for COVID-19 Vaccine Shots](#)
- [Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment](#)
- [Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration](#)
- [CMS Quality Reporting for COVID-19 Vaccine Shots](#)
- [Medicare Monoclonal Antibody COVID-19 Infusion](#)
- [List of billing codes, payment allowances and effective dates](#)

### Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment

Medicare payment rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration will be \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines. For a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of 2 or more doses, the initial dose(s) administration payment rate will be \$16.94, and \$28.39 for the administration of the final dose in the series. These rates recognize the costs involved in administering the vaccine, including the additional resources involved with required public health reporting, conducting important outreach and patient education, and spending additional time with patients answering any questions they may have about the vaccine.

- [List of billing codes, payment allowances and effective dates.](#)

\*These rates will also be geographically adjusted.

**There is no cost for your patients.** No copayment/coinsurance. No Deductible.

#### Tufts Health Plan

If a vaccine for COVID-19 is approved and available, the vaccine will be covered in full. There will be no cost to members. Tufts Health Plan complies with federal and state guidelines for vaccines.

To learn more <https://tuftshealthplan.com/covid-19/provider/coronavirus-updates-for-providers>

#### United Health Care

The cost of COVID-19 FDA-authorized vaccine serums will initially be paid for by the government.

UnitedHealthcare will reimburse administration of FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with applicable state laws and federal provisions, including the CARES Act and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) guidance, as outlined below.

- **For Medicare Advantage health plans**, charges for the COVID-19 vaccine administration should be billed to the CMS Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). The MAC will reimburse claims for Medicare members with no cost share for the remainder of 2020 and through 2021. For more information, see the [CMS COVID-19 Insurers Toolkit](#).
- **For Employer and Individual\* health plans**, UnitedHealthcare and self-funded customers will cover the administration of COVID-19 vaccines with no cost share for in- and out-of-network providers, during the national public health emergency period. Administration fees for in-network providers will be based on contracted rates. Administration fees for out-of-network providers will be based on CMS published rates.
- **For Medicaid**, Medicaid state-specific rules and other state regulations may apply. For Medicaid and other state-specific regulations, please refer to your state-specific website or your

state's [UnitedHealthcare Community Plan website](#), if applicable. UnitedHealthcare will pay administration fees at CMS published rates unless otherwise specified.

**\* Disclaimer**

“This information was compiled from online information provided by the plans themselves and is intended to serve as a general resource. This information does not constitute legal advice. Many factors affect the appropriateness of submitting a claim for reimbursement. The information should be used in consultation with your billing specialist and other advisers in initiating telehealth services billing. This information is current as of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. please check with the appropriate health plan to see what changes, if any, have been made since that date.”