

IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT2023162 NOVEMBER 14, 2023

IHCP announces pharmacy benefit updates to COVID-19 vaccine reimbursement

On Oct. 3, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) their amendment to the emergency use authorization (EUA) of Novavax coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine, Adjuvanted to include the 2023-2024 formula. The updated 2023-2024, monovalent Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted includes the spike protein from the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant lineage XBB.1.5. With this announcement, the FDA has indicated that the original monovalent Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted will no longer be authorized for use in the United States.

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on or after **Oct. 3, 2023**, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will reimburse IHCP-enrolled pharmacies for the updated 2023-2024 Novavax monovalent vaccine and administration when given to applicable IHCP members as approved by the FDA or authorized for emergency use, and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Pharmacies that submitted claims for these vaccines with DOS on or after Oct. 3, 2023, but prior to this publication, may reprocess the claims to be reimbursed for the ingredient cost.

As established in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT2023132](#), point-of-sale (POS) pharmacy claims for COVID-19 vaccines should no longer be submitted using the Service Clarification Code (SCC, 420-DK) for reimbursement. Vaccines administered by the pharmacist should continue to be submitted with a Professional Service Code (440-E5) of MA to receive an administration fee.

Additionally, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that it will permit states to reimburse providers that are not enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program for COVID-19 vaccine and administration when given to VFC-eligible members as part of the declarations outlined in the [Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#). For DOS on or after Nov. 14, 2023, the IHCP will reimburse pharmacies that are not enrolled in the VFC program for COVID-19 vaccine and VFC-vaccine administration, as outlined in *IHCP Bulletin* [BT202210](#).

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 Optum Rx 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 Customer Assistance at 800-457-4584.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Customer Assistance at 800-457-4584.

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