Payment Policy | COVID-19 Vaccinations

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12|11|2020
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 12|22|2020

OVERVIEW

This policy documents that Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) will waive cost share for US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved vaccines and the associated administration services for COVID-19.

BCBSRI reserves the right to implement changes to this policy without the contractual sixty-day (60) notification that is normally required under BCBSRI contracts with its providers due to the urgent nature of a pandemic related service.

Notice of the implementation and updates of this policy will be communicated to BCBSRI providers via a notice on BCBSRI's provider website/portal under Alerts and Updates.

Note: This policy is NOT effective for any specific vaccine until such time as the vaccine is approved by the FDA. The effective date for any specific vaccine shall align with the FDA approval date. As a result, each vaccine may have a different effective date. As FDA approval is issued, BCBSRI will include the effective date for each vaccine in the BACKGROUND section of this Policy.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercials Products

FDA approved vaccines for COVID-19 are covered when recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and when FDA guidelines are met.

BCBSRI will not impose any cost sharing (e.g. deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) on vaccines or administration related services for COVID-19.

Note: Evaluation & Management (E/M) services should not be filed for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccination unless the E/M represents a separately identifiable service and modifier 25 is appended to the E/M code. Please see Coding section for COVID-19 specific vaccine administration codes. Example: It is considered incorrect coding to file code 99211 or any other E/M code when the intent of the visit is for the administration of COVID-19 vaccination only.

COVERAGE

Services identified in this policy are covered with no cost share to the member during the timeframe the policy is in effect.

BACKGROUND

On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued the first emergency use authorization (EUA) for a vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 16 years of age and older. The emergency use authorization allows the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S.

The FDA has determined that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has met the statutory criteria for issuance of an EUA. The totality of the available data provides clear evidence that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may be effective in preventing COVID-19.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine contains messenger RNA (mRNA), which is genetic material. The vaccine contains a small piece of the SARS-CoV-2 virus's mRNA that instructs cells in the body to make the virus's distinctive "spike" protein. When a person receives this vaccine, their body produces copies of the spike protein, which does not cause disease, but triggers the immune system to learn to react defensively, producing an immune response against SARS-CoV-2. Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is administered as a series of two doses, three weeks apart.

On December 18, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an EUA for the second vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The emergency use authorization allows the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.

The FDA has determined that the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine has met the statutory criteria for issuance of an EUA. The totality of the available data provides clear evidence that the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may be effective in preventing COVID-19. The data also show that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks—supporting the company's request for the vaccine's use in people 18 years of age and older. In making this determination, the FDA can assure the public and medical community that it has conducted a thorough evaluation of the available safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality information.

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine contains messenger RNA (mRNA), which is genetic material. The vaccine contains a small piece of the SARS-CoV-2 virus's mRNA that instructs cells in the body to make the virus's distinctive "spike" protein. After a person receives this vaccine, their body produces copies of the spike protein, which does not cause disease, but triggers the immune system to learn to react defensively, producing an immune response against SARS-CoV-2.

U.S. FDA COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization Dates
Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine – December 11, 2020
Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine – December 18, 2020

NOTE: As of December 18, 2020, the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine has **not** received FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

CODING

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

As with all services, providers should report the most appropriate ICD-10 diagnostic code(s) for any patient encounter. The following ICD-10 code is acceptable for administration of COVID-19 vaccine:
Z23 Encounter for immunization

See BACKGROUND section for FDA approval effective dates of vaccines.

Claims Filing Information
Vaccines Supplied at No Cost to Provider

Vaccines supplied to providers at no cost must be filed using the appropriate vaccine procedure codes and the appropriate administration procedure code, without modifier 22 appended to the vaccine code.

BlueCHiP for Medicare

In accordance with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) billing guidelines, the following codes for the vaccine and administration of COVID-19 vaccines must be submitted to Original Medicare for all patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage in 2020 and 2021. As a result, providers should not bill BCBSRI for any BlueCHiP for Medicare services.

Vaccine Administration CPT Codes

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (Pfizer, Inc.)

0001A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; first dose

0002A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; second dose

Moderna COVID-19 (Moderna, Inc.)

0011A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; first dose

0012A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; second dose

AstraZeneca COVID-19 (AstraZeneca, Inc.)

0021A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, DNA, spike protein, chimpanzee adenovirus Oxford 1 (ChAdOx1) vector, preservative free, 5x1010 viral particles/0.5mL dosage; first dose

0022A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, DNA, spike protein, chimpanzee adenovirus Oxford 1 (ChAdOx1) vector, preservative free, 5x1010 viral particles/0.5mL dosage; second dose

Vaccine Product CPT Codes

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (Pfizer, Inc.)

91300 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted, for intramuscular use

Moderna COVID-19 (Moderna, Inc.)

91301 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use

AstraZeneca COVID-19 (AstraZeneca, Inc.)

91302 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, DNA, spike protein, chimpanzee adenovirus Oxford 1 (ChAdOx1) vector, preservative free, 5x1010 viral particles/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use

Commercial Products

Vaccine Administration CPT Codes
The following codes will be covered and separately reimbursed:

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (Pfizer, Inc.)
0001A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; first dose
0002A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; second dose

Moderna COVID-19 (Moderna, Inc.)
0011A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; first dose
0012A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; second dose

AstraZeneca COVID-19 (AstraZeneca, Inc.)
0021A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, DNA, spike protein, chimpanzee adenovirus Oxford 1 (ChAdOx1) vector, preservative free, 5x1010 viral particles/0.5mL dosage; first dose

0022A Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, DNA, spike protein, chimpanzee adenovirus Oxford 1 (ChAdOx1) vector, preservative free, 5x1010 viral particles/0.5mL dosage; second dose

Vaccine Product CPT Codes
There is no reimbursement for vaccine products that health care providers receive at no cost. However, it is required that providers file the following vaccine codes for reporting and data collection purposes.

Note: Providers should not append modifier 22 to the following vaccine codes, indicating the vaccine was purchased by the provider. If claims for vaccine codes are submitted with modifier 22 appended, the claim for the vaccine will be denied and providers should refile the vaccine code without a 22 modifier.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (Pfizer, Inc.)
91300 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted, for intramuscular use

Moderna COVID-19 (Moderna, Inc.)
91301 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use

AstraZeneca COVID-19 (AstraZeneca, Inc.)
91302 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARSCoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, DNA, spike protein, chimpanzee adenovirus Oxford 1 (ChAdOx1) vector, preservative free, 5x1010 viral particles/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use

RELATED POLICIES

COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatment
TEMPORARY Cost Share Waiver for Treatment of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 During the COVID-19 Crisis
TEMPORARY COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing
TEMPORARY Timely Filing Limit Extension Policy – Additional 180 Days During the COVID-19 Crisis
TEMPORARY Encounter for Determination of Need for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing ng

PUBLISHED

BCBSRI's website
Provider Update, February 2021

REFERENCES

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA Takes Key Action in Fight Against COVID-19 By Issuing Emergency Use Authorization for First COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA Takes Additional Action in Fight Against COVID-19 By Issuing Emergency Use Authorization for Second COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA

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