



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 10 | 15 | 2007  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 01 | 19 | 2016

## OVERVIEW

This policy documents payment and claims filing guidelines for immunizations and vaccinations provided for pediatric and adult members.

## MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

## POLICY STATEMENT

### BlueCHiP for Medicare

The following vaccines are covered under the member's Part B Medicare Benefit:

- Pneumococcal pneumonia
- Influenza virus
- Hepatitis B for individuals at high or intermediate risk (Requires ICD-10 diagnosis code Z23; ICD-9 diagnosis code V05.3)
- Tetanus and other vaccines when directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition, such as rabies (Requires ICD-10 diagnosis code Z20.3; ICD-9 diagnosis code V01.5)

**Note:** to ensure correct claims processing for Tetanus Vaccine coverage under Part B, the claim must be filed with a diagnosis that indicates that the vaccine was needed due to an injury.

All other vaccines not included in the list above are covered under the member's Part D Medicare Drug Benefit Plan.

### Commercial Products

Vaccinations/immunizations are covered when recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and when US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines are met.

### Biologicals Supplied by the States

#### Rhode Island

The State of Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) provides biologicals for pediatric immunizations for members residing in Rhode Island. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) does not provide reimbursement to the provider for biologicals for immunizations that are supplied by the DOH or any other state or federal agency. BCBSRI follows the DOH guidelines when determining which vaccines are state-supplied. BCBSRI is assessed a vaccine tax, which is paid to the State of Rhode Island in order for the DOH to fund the vaccine distribution program. Refer to the DOH for more information on state-supplied vaccines as well as information on any vaccine shortages.



The Rhode Island DOH Pediatric and Adult State Supplied Vaccines are listed here:

### **All Other States**

For out-of-state members, providers must refer to the applicable state guidelines for state-supplied vaccines.

### **Non-State-Supplied Vaccines Purchased by the Provider**

Providers must submit both the administration procedure code and vaccine/toxoid procedure code and append modifier 22 on the claim. Modifier 22 identifies the vaccine as non-state supplied and indicates the vaccine was supplied by the physician, which facilitates pricing of the claim to include allowance for the vaccine.

### **Additional Claims Filing Information:**

- State-supplied immunization claims must be filed using the appropriate administration and vaccine codes.
- Evaluation & Management (E/M) services should not be filed along with the immunization unless the E/M represents a separately identifiable service and modifier 25 is appended to the E/M code.

### **Travel Clinics and Preventive Immunizations**

BCBSRI's Commercial plans cover immunizations, including those related to travel. This includes biological/vaccine and vaccine administrations. Vaccine administration codes include very limited counseling regarding the specific vaccine. The services related to additional counseling of a patient about their preventive or prophylactic medicine/vaccination needs, safety, exposure risks while traveling, etc. are not covered services.

While not covered, travel clinic counseling services are typically reported using codes 99401 to 99404 (individual) or 99411 to 99412 (group). Travel Clinics must notify members of their financial obligation and may bill the member for these noncovered counseling services. Members should be made aware of this denial at the time the service is rendered. Physicians/professional providers and institutional providers are not required to submit claims for these services in order to bill the member.

BlueCHiP for Medicare plans do not cover vaccines related to travel, except as provided by Part D. This exclusion also applies to the vaccine administration service.

### **Immunizations for School or Employment**

Immunizations, as a requirement for school or employment or related to an employment exposure, are considered a contract exclusion for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products.

### **Vaccine Retail Program**

Beginning 9/1/11 (or as directed by the State of Rhode Island Department of Health), Rhode Island-based pharmacies choosing to participate in the BCBSRI program may submit for flu administration only and/or shingles (zostavax) vaccine administration and supply using the pharmacy claims system.

### **COVERAGE**

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for the applicable Adult Preventive Immunizations and/or Pediatric Preventive Immunization benefits/coverage.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) § 27-38.1-2: Insurance Coverage for Pediatric Preventive Care is stated below:

- (a) Every health insurance plan providing coverage for a dependent or minor child, other than school policies, shall include benefits for pediatric preventive care. All benefits shall be reimbursed in accordance with the reimbursement policies and procedure of each health insurer.
- (b) Every health insurer shall provide benefits for pediatric preventive care or make that care available to its enrolled participants. Benefits do not need to be provided pursuant to this section for pediatric preventive care services that are paid for or offered free of charge by the state of Rhode Island. Benefits do not need to be provided for the cost of biologicals used for vaccinations.

Immunization is the process of stimulating the body's immune system to protect against a specific infection. Minute amounts of the specific bacteria or virus, in whole or part, are specially treated so that when given to the patient, they will stimulate the body's immune system without actually causing disease. Some immunizations require "booster," or repeat doses of the same vaccine to keep up the body's protection against a specific bacteria or virus.

The Rhode Island DOH provides certain biologicals for physician's offices and hospital pharmacies at no charge for residents of Rhode Island who meet the Rhode Island DOH vaccine distribution guidelines.

With the advent of the Medicare Part D program, there is now broader reimbursement available to providers for vaccines administered to Medicare beneficiaries. Some vaccines are covered under Medicare Part B and others under Part D. The Part B program covers limited vaccines indicated for the Medicare population, with the provider administering the vaccine and billing the Part B contractor (Medicare carrier or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor or A/B MAC) for both the vaccine and its associated administration. Medicare Part B currently covers the following immunizations:

- Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine;
- Influenza virus vaccine;
- Hepatitis B vaccine for individuals at high or intermediate risk; and
- Other vaccines when directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition, such as rabies and tetanus.

The Part D program will generally cover those vaccines not available for reimbursement under Medicare Parts A or B when administration is reasonable and necessary for the prevention of illness. Part D plans identify covered drugs and vaccines through the use of formularies. However, a new preventative vaccine may not be specifically listed on the Part D plan's formulary. This does not mean the vaccine is not available for reimbursement. The provider can contact the Part D plan about coverage and any supporting information that might be necessary to facilitate vaccine coverage for the beneficiary.

#### **CODING**

The following CPT administration codes are covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

**90460      90461      90471      90472      90473      90474**

Note: Claims filed for multiple vaccines administered on the same date of service and by the same provider should be filed using the administration add-on codes (90461, 90472, or 90474) and indicating the number of units used.

#### **BlueCHiP for Medicare**

The following CPT/HCPCS vaccine/toxoid codes are covered as a Part B benefit:

**90630      90653      90654      90655      90656      90658      90660      90661**  
**90662      90664**  
**90669** (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
**90670      90672      90673      90675      90676      90685      90686      90687      90688**

90714 90715 90732 90740 90743 90744 90746 90747 90748  
Q2034 Q2035 Q2036 Q2037 Q2038

For Medicare Part B coverage, the following diagnosis codes are required with the applicable CPT vaccine codes for Rabies or Hepatitis B for individuals at high or intermediate risk:

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes:

Rabies:

**Z20.3** (ICD-9 diagnosis code **V01.5**)

Hepatitis B:

**Z23** (ICD-9 diagnosis code **V05.3**)

### Commercial Products

The following CPT/HCPCS vaccine/toxoid codes are covered:

90476 90477 90581 90620 90621 90630 90632 90633  
90634 90636 90644  
90645 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90647 90648 90649 90650 90651 90653 90654 90655  
90656 90657 90658 90660 90661 90662 90664  
90669 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90670 90672 90673 90675 90676 90680 90681 90685  
90686 90687 90688 90696 90698 90700 90702  
90703 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90704 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90705 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90706 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90707  
90708 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90710  
90712 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90713 90714 90715 90716  
90719 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90720 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90721 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)  
90723 90732 90733 90734 90736 90740 90743 90744  
90746 90747 90748 90749  
Q2034 Q2035 Q2036 Q2037 Q2038

The following CPT immunization codes are non-covered/contract exclusions as applicable for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products as they are pending FDA approval:

90625 (New code effective 1/1/2016)

90666 90667 90668 90739

The following CPT vaccine travel codes are covered for **Commercial products**:

90690 90691

90692 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)

90717

90725 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)

90727 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)

90735 (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)

90738

The following CPT codes for individual and group counseling are non-covered when used for travel immunization counseling for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

**99401 99402 99403 99404 99411 99412**

The following HCPCS codes are separately reimbursed for BlueCHiP for Medicare:

**Please Note:** Also refer to the separate policy for Preventive Services for BlueCHiP for Medicare for correct coding

**G0008 G0009 G0010**

The following CPT code is non-covered/contract exclusion for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

**90693** (Code discontinued 12/31/2015)

Claims filed with the following code will deny as use alternate code for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

**Q2039**

### **RELATED POLICIES**

Preventive Services for Commercial Members  
Preventive Services for BlueCHiP for Medicare

### **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, March 2016  
Provider Update, November 2014  
Provider Update, February 2013  
Provider Update, November 2009  
Provider Update, September 2007  
Provider Update, May 2007  
Provider Update, June 2006

### **REFERENCES**

1. CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vaccines & Immunizations:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>
2. CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vaccine Recommendations Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP): <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>
3. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Immunizations: <http://www2.aap.org/immunization/>
4. State of Rhode Island Department of Health Immunization, Office of:  
<http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/immunization/>
5. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network MLN Matters 2014-2015 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals:  
<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1431.pdf>
6. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services MLN Matters® Number: SE1523 2015-2016 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals  
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1523.pdf>

7. CMS.gov Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Immunizations:  
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html?redirect=/immunization>

8. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network MLN Matters® Number: MM9051  
Modifications to Medicare Part B Coverage of Pneumococcal Vaccinations  
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9051.pdf>

9. TITLE 27 Insurance CHAPTER 27-38.1 Insurance Coverage for Pediatric Preventive Care  
SECTION 27-38.1-2 Coverage required for pediatric preventive care:  
<http://webservice.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE27/27-38.1/27-38.1-2.HTM>

10. U. S. Food and Drug Administration. Vaccines, Blood and Biologicals. Complete list of vaccines licensed for immunization and distribution in the US.  
<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/UCM093833>  
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