OVERVIEW
This policy documents payment guidelines for immunizations and vaccinations provided for pediatric individuals aged 0 to 18 years and adult individuals aged 19 years and above.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Prior Authorization is not required

POLICY STATEMENT
BlueCHiP for Medicare:
The following vaccines will be covered under the member's Part B Medicare Benefit:
- Pneumococcal pneumonia
- Influenza virus
- Hepatitis B for individuals at high or intermediate risk (Requires diagnosis code V05.3)
- Other vaccines when directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition, such as rabies (Requires diagnosis code V01.5) and tetanus

All other vaccines not included in the list above and associated administration fees will be 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 (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Biologicals Supplied by the State:
The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) provides biologicals for pediatric immunizations for infants and children 18 years and under only.

Out-of-state providers please refer to the appropriate State supplied guidelines.

RIDOH generally does not supply vaccines when ordered for an individual 19 years of age and older. Exception: Meningococcal vaccine for meningitis is supplied for college-bound freshmen who will be residing in a dormitory.

Note: BCBSRI is assessed a vaccine tax which is paid to the State of Rhode Island in order for the Department of Health to fund the vaccine distribution program. Occasionally, a new vaccine is added to the immunization schedule by the AAP. Based on the 1989 Rhode Island State Mandate, immunizations added by the AAP to the pediatric immunization schedule are added to the list of State-supplied vaccines.

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.
MEDICAL CRITERIA

None

BACKGROUND

The following is the Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) § 27-38.1-2 Coverage required for pediatric preventive care as 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 procedures of each health insurer. 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.

RIDOH provides certain biologicals for physician’s offices and hospital pharmacies at no charge for children who meet the RIDOH vaccine distribution guidelines. The guidelines can be found at http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/immunizeforlife/

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has limited coverage for vaccines however, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) provides more generous immunization coverage for BlueCHiP for Medicare members.

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 most of the vaccines indicated for the Medicare population, with the immunizer 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. The Part D program generally covers those vaccines not available under Part B; however, unlike Part B, the immunizer may or may not be able to directly bill the Part D Sponsor for the vaccine and its administration, but instead may need to work with the beneficiary and his/her Part D plan to facilitate reimbursement. The first step is for the provider to understand which vaccines are available under the two different programs so he/she can assist the beneficiary in obtaining the vaccines needed to maintain and improve his/her health.

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.

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

**CODING**
BCBSRI does not provide reimbursement for biologicals for immunizations that are supplied by the RIDOH or any other state or federal agency.

**State-Supplied Vaccines:**
BCBSRI follows the Department of Public Health's guidelines when determining which vaccines are state-supplied. Refer to the Department of Public Health for information on state-supplied vaccines as well as information on any vaccine shortages.

2014 RI State Supplied Vaccines:

**Non-State-Supplied Vaccines Purchased by the Provider:**
Submit both the administration procedure code and vaccine/toxoid procedure code appended with a 22 modifier on the claim. Appending the 22 modifier 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.

**Note:** Physicians treating out-of-state residents should use a 22 modifier when the vaccine is not supplied by the state.

**Claims Filing Information:**
- State-supplied immunization claims should be filed using the appropriate administration and vaccine codes.
- Evaluation & Management services should not be filed along with the immunization unless the E & M represents a separately identifiable service.
- BlueCHiP for Medicare Emergency Room and Urgent Care facility claims for the tetanus vaccine should be filed under the member's Part B benefit. For all other sites, providers must bill the member for the tetanus vaccine and the member must submit the claim through their Part D benefit.

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

**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 includes very limited counseling regarding the specific vaccine. The services related to counseling a patient about their preventive or prophylactic medicine/vaccination needs, safety, exposure risks while traveling, etc. are not covered services.
Travel Clinics should notify members of their financial obligation and may bill the member for the counseling services.

Use of incorrect CPT® codes (e.g., 99201 to 99215) may result in the member seeking payment from BCBSRI, as these are covered service codes. Travel clinic counseling services are typically reported using codes 99401 to 99404 (individual) or 99411 to 99412 (group). These codes are reported for the service of a physician or qualified licensed professional (a nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant).
Physicians/professional providers and institutional providers are not required to submit claims for preventive medicine services in order to receive a payment denial.

Services related to an illness acquired while traveling are covered by all plans. 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.

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

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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) appended with the number of units used.

BlueCHiP for Medicare

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

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BlueCHiP for Medicare

For Part B coverage, a diagnosis code is required with the applicable CPT vaccine code for Rabies or Hepatitis B for individuals at high or intermediate risk:

ICD-9 Diagnosis Code

V01.5 Contact with or exposure to communicable diseases Rabies

V05.3 Need for prophylactic vaccination and inoculation against single diseases Viral Hepatitis

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

Z20.3 Z23

Commercial products

The following CPT vaccine/toxoid codes are covered:

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

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

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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:

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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.

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

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The following HCPCS codes are not separately reimbursed for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

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**RELATED POLICIES**
Preventive Services for Commercial
Preventive Services for BlueCHiP for Medicare

**PUBLISHED**

- Provider Update Nov 2014
- Provider Update Feb 2013
- Provider Update Nov 2009
- Provider Update Sep 2007
- Provider Update May 2007
- Provider Update Jun 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);
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:

6. CMS.gov Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Immunizations:

7. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network MLN Matters Reimbursement for Vaccines and Vaccine Administration Under Medicare Part D

8. TITLE 27 Insurance CHAPTER 27-38.1 Insurance Coverage for Pediatric Preventive Care SECTION 27-38.1-2 Coverage required for pediatric preventive care:

9. 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