

Medical Coverage Policy | Immunizations Adult and Pediatric



EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/01/2006
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 09/16/2014

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 procedure 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.



State Supplied
Vaccines for Pediatric

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:**

90460	90461	90471	90472	90473	90474
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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:

90654	90655	90656	90657	90658	90660
90661	90662	90664	90669	90670	90672
90673	90675	90676	90685	90686	90687
90688	90714	90715	90732	90740	90743
90744	90746	90747	90748		

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:

90476	90477	90581	90632	90633	90634
90636	90644	90645	90647	90648	90649
90650	90654	90655	90656	90657	90658
90660	90661	90662	90664	90669	90670
90672	90673	90675	90676	90680	90681
90685	90686	90687	90688	90696	90698
90700	90702	90703	90704	90705	90706
90707	90708	90710	90712	90713	90714
90715	90716	90719	90720	90721	90723

90732	90733	90734	90736	90740	90743
90744	90746	90747	90748	90749	

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:

90630	90651	90697	90653	90666	90667
90668	90739				

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

90690	90691	90692	90717	90725	90727
90735	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**:

99401-99404

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

90693

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

Q2034	Q2035	Q2036	Q2037	Q2038	Q2039
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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):
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/>

6. CMS.gov Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Immunizations:
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html?redirect=/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:
<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE27/27-38.1/27-38.1-2.HTM>
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>

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