



EFFECTIVE DATE: 10 | 15 | 2007

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 01 | 03 | 2017

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)
- 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)
- **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. Append modifier GU or GX for Commercial products.

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. Pneumococcal vaccines are not administered under this program.

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	90657	90658	90660	90661
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

90662	90664	90670	90672	90673	90674 Effective 8/1/2016	90675	90676	90682 Effective 1/1/2017
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

Hepatitis B:

Z23

Commercial Products

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

90476	90477	90581	90620	90621	90630	90632	90633	90634
90636	90644	90647	90648	90649	90650	90651	90653	90654
90655	90656	90657	90658	90660	90661	90662	90664	90670
90672	90673	90674 Effective 8/1/2016	90675	90676	90680	90681	90682 Effective 1/1/2017	90685
90686	90687	90688	90696	90698	90700	90702	90707	90710
90713	90714	90715	90716	90723	90732	90733	90734	90736
90740	90743	90744	90746	90747	90748	90749		
Q2034	Q2035	Q2036	2037	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:

90666	90667	90668	90739	90750 Effective 1/1/2017				
-------	-------	-------	-------	--------------------------------	--	--	--	--

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

90625	90690	90691	90717	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	G0009	G0010					
-------	-------	-------	-------	--	--	--	--	--

For the following service for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products, please follow the unlisted procedures process:

Q2039

RELATED POLICIES

Preventive Services for Commercial Members
Preventive Services for BlueCHIP for Medicare
Advance Notice of Non-Coverage

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, March 2017
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://webserver.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>

[CLICK THE ENVELOPE ICON BELOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS](#)

This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

