

Bulletin Number: MSA 20-65

Distribution: All Providers

Issued: October 14, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Response: Vaccine Services Updates

Effective: As Indicated

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, MICHild, Maternity Outpatient Medical Services (MOMS)

Consistent with public health emergency conditions at both the state and federal level related to COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is issuing this policy effective immediately. Given the circumstances, the policy provisions are intended to be time-limited as indicated herein.

Vaccines play a vital role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Immunizations are the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases that cause illness. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has identified a significant decrease in routine preventive well child visits and immunizations across beneficiaries in the Medicaid program since the onset of COVID-19 which are due, in part, to stay-at-home orders. Disparities in vaccination coverage by Medicaid status continue for Medicaid-covered children. This decline may have substantial impacts on long-term health outcomes for children. Preventive and routine healthcare, including immunizations, is crucial to ensuring that children stay healthy.

The prevention and control of seasonal influenza with vaccine administration also remains an important consideration, especially in the context of COVID-19. In an effort to increase access to vaccines and to promote an increase in overall immunization rates among Medicaid beneficiaries, MDHHS is adding pharmacy reimbursement for influenza vaccines administered to children, increasing sites where influenza vaccine services may be reimbursed, and temporarily increasing the vaccine administration fees for enrolled providers.

Pharmacy Reimbursement for Influenza Vaccine Cost Administered to Children

Effective for dates of service on and after October 1, 2020, participating pharmacies may administer influenza vaccine to children ages three and older as permitted by, and in accordance with, requirements of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act). The purpose of this policy change is to increase influenza vaccination rates among children. Pharmacies will be reimbursed for the ingredient cost of the influenza vaccine when the vaccine is not provided through participation in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. There is no end-date to this portion of the policy change. Pharmacies may continue to bill for the cost to administer the influenza vaccine up to MDHHS-allowed administration fees. The MDHHS Medicaid pharmacy website identifies covered influenza vaccines for each influenza season and can be found at <https://michigan.magellanrx.com/>.

New Sites Added for Influenza Vaccine Administration

Effective for dates of service on and after October 1, 2020, Medicaid enrolled providers may be reimbursed for influenza vaccine services provided at the following additional places of service: COVID-19 testing sites, drive-through testing locations, and mobile vans.

Temporary Vaccine Administration Fee/Rate Update

Effective for dates of service on and after October 1, 2020, reimbursement for immunization administration services will be 100% of the annual Medicare rate. This reimbursement rate update will be in effect for services rendered on and through December 30, 2020. It also applies to the above-mentioned pharmacy immunization services and new sites added for influenza vaccine administration. This rate increase is attributed to funding available through Section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) ending December 30, 2020.

All Medicaid provider rates are reviewed and updated annually and published at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Billing & Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information. For additional vaccine reimbursement information, providers should refer to the Medicaid Code and Rate Reference Tool via the External Links menu within the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS).

The temporary vaccine administration rate increase will be implemented for the following procedure codes:

Procedure Code	Short Description	Rate
90460	Im Admin 1st/Only Component	\$ 13.76
90471	Immunization Admin	\$ 13.76
90472	Immunization Admin Each Add	\$ 12.38
90473	Immun Admin Oral/Nasal	\$ 13.76
90474	Immune Admin Oral/Nasal Addl	\$ 12.38
G0008	Admin Influenza Virus Vac	\$ 13.76
G0009	Admin Pneumococcal Vaccine	\$ 13.76
G0010	Admin Hepatitis B Vaccine	\$ 13.76

Additional Provider Resources

Communicating the importance of influenza immunizations and all recommended childhood vaccines is highly encouraged.

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting immunization services differently across providers and the state. The MDHHS Division of Immunization created a new website to support immunization providers in the context of COVID-19: www.Michigan.gov/VaccinesDuringCOVID. Influenza vaccine resources for immunization providers and for patient education is available at <https://www.michigan.gov/flu>.

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the policy promulgation process is being conducted concurrently with the implementation of the change noted in this bulletin. Any interested party wishing to comment on the change may do so by submitting comments to Rajita Dnyate, Policy Specialist, via e-mail at DnyateR@michigan.gov.

Please include "Vaccine Services Updates" in the subject line.

Comments received will be considered for revisions to the change implemented by this bulletin.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. Communications should include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Massey", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration