

# Ask the Expert: Covid-19 Vaccines

Carra Benson, CPC, CDEO, CPMA

Meredith Vinez, MPH, MPA



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# Agenda

- What is available?
- Who can administer the vaccine?
- Cost of vaccines: Do's and Don'ts
- COVID-19 vaccine CPT codes
- Uninsured payment
- Medicare
- Medicare rates
- Medicaid
- Private health plans



# What Is Available?

- **Two shots**
  - Pfizer
    - 16 years and older
    - 3 weeks apart
    - Fully vaccinated 2 weeks after 2nd shot
  - Moderna
    - 18 years and older
    - 4 weeks apart
    - Fully vaccinated 2 weeks after 2nd shot
- **One Shot**
  - Janssen
    - 18 years and older



# Who Can Administer the Vaccine?

- Medical doctors
- Doctors of osteopathic medicine
- Nurse practitioners/Advanced practice nurses
- Physician assistants
- Certified nurse midwives
- Additionally, any medical professional granted authority by a signing physician:
  - Registered nurses
  - Licensed vocational nurses
  - Certified medical assistants



# Cost of Vaccines: Do's and Don'ts

- **Do:**
  - Seek reimbursement from private health plans, Medicare, Medicaid, and the COVID-19 Uninsured Program
- **Don't:**
  - Charge patients for the vaccine or administration
  - Deny the vaccine due to patient's insurance or economic status
  - Charge an office visit to provide the COVID-19 vaccine
  - Require additional medical or other services during the visit as a condition for getting a COVID-19 vaccination

# COVID-19 Vaccine CPT Codes

Pfizer, Inc	
Vaccine Code	Administration
91300	0001A-1st dose
	0002A-2nd dose

  

Moderna, Inc	
Vaccine Code	Administration
91301	0011A-1st dose
	0012A-2nd dose

  

Janssen/Johnson&Johnson	
Vaccine Code	Administration
91303	0031A





# COVID-19 Vaccine CPT Codes for Administration

The CPT codes for the administration include:

- Practice expense costs of storage and ordering
- Counseling provided to patients or caregivers on the date the vaccine is administered
- Administering the vaccine
- Updating the electronic health record and the vaccine registry

**Note:** You will not report the immunization administration codes (90460-90461, 90471-90474) when administering a coronavirus vaccine.



# CPT Coding for Vaccine Counseling

Coding options to account for time spent counseling patients on the COVID-19 vaccine in office or over telemedicine

- Check with your payers for guidance on their limitations.
- If you provide vaccine counseling on the day you also administer the vaccine to the patient, you may not report counseling separately.

## ICD-10-CM codes

**Z71.89** Other specified counseling

**Z28.21** Immunization not carried out because of patient refusal

**Z28.82** Immunization not carried out because of caregiver refusal

## CPT options

**99201-99215** Office-based E/M service: based on time spent with the patient/caregiver.

**99401-99404** Preventive Medicine Counseling: based on time spent counseling (Note this code is not listed as an approved telehealth service). May not be used for group counseling.

**99411-99412** Preventive Medicine Group Counseling: Used for group visits when discussing vaccine safety



# CPT Coding for Vaccine Counseling

## Coding Tips

Do not report a 90460, 90461, 90471-90474 with any COVID-19 vaccine administration code.

- Report only one vaccine administration code per COVID-19 injection
- If you see the patient for a significant and separately identifiable E&M service in addition to the COVID-19 vaccine, append modifier 25 to the E&M service.

EXAMPLE: You see a patient for a routine preventive medicine service (e.g., 99394), and she decides to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Report the 99394 and the appropriate product (as required) and the administration code only. Counseling is captured in the COVID-19 vaccine administration code.

- Your ICD-10-CM code for COVID-19 vaccine administration is Z23.



# Uninsured Payment

- Health Resource and Services Administration's COVID-19 Uninsured Program
- How it works
  - Enroll as a participant
  - Check patient eligibility
  - Submit patient information
  - Submit claims electronically
  - Receive payment through direct deposit



# Coverage Assistance Fund

- Health Resource and Services Administration's COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund
- How it works
  - Enroll as a participant
  - Submit claims to patient's health plan carrier for payment
  - Submit denied or partially paid claim(s) to the CAF portal
    - Copay
    - Coinsurance
    - Deductible
    - Noncovered vaccine administration fees



# Medicare

## Medicare

- Must be a Medicare provider
- Bill only the vaccine administration
- DO NOT include the vaccine code on the claim
- Submit all Medicare Advantage claims to original Medicare (Novitas Solutions)

# Medicare Rates

- National administration rate
  - DOS through March 14, 2021
    - \$16.94 – 1st dose
    - \$28.39 – 2nd dose
  - DOS on or after March 15, 2021
    - \$40.00 – 1st and 2nd dose
- Geographical adjusted administration rate

Example:

DOS	Through 3/14/2021	Through 3/14/2021	On or after 3/15/2021
Admin Dose	0001A or 0011A	0002A or 0012A	0001A,0011A, 0002A, 0012A
Austin (31)	\$17.57	\$28.99	\$41.31





# Medicaid

- Rates:
  - DOS through March 14, 2021
    - \$16.94 – 1st dose
    - \$28.39 – 2nd dose
  - DOS on or after March 15, 2021
    - \$40.00 – 1st and 2nd dose
- Must be enrolled as a Medicaid provider





# Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

## Coverage

- Fully-funded
  - Covered with no cost-share when delivered by either in-network or out-of-network physicians and providers
- Self-funded
  - Nongrandfathered-administration is covered as preventive
  - Grandfathered plans are not required to cover preventive services
- Rates
  - In-network – contract rates apply
  - Out-of-network – based on an out-of-network payment policy that follows Medicare rates
- Bill the vaccine on a separate claim when it is **not** the primary purpose of the visit

## Coverage

- Includes both in-network and out-of-network physicians and providers
- The vaccine product code is not required to be on the claim.
  - If you include the vaccine on the claim, report it with \$.01.
- Rate
  - In-network – contract rates apply
  - Out-of-network – based on the base maximum amount payable for an out-of-network physician or provider

## Coverage

- Includes both in-network and out-of-network physicians and providers
- The vaccine product code is not required to be on the claim.
  - If you include the vaccine on the claim, report it with \$.01.
- Rate
  - Cigna will pay the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine at the national CMS rates.

## Coverage

- Includes both in-network and out-of-network physicians and providers
- Aetna has not explicitly stated if the vaccine product code is to be billed on the claim.
- Rate: Aetna will apply rates that do not exceed CMS rates.



# United Healthcare

- Coverage
  - Includes both in-network and out-of-network physicians and providers
  - Bill COVID-19 vaccine administration through the standard claims process.
- Rate
  - In-network – contract rates apply
  - Out-of-network– based on the national CMS rates



# Resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Find your COVID-19 Vaccine CPT Codes](#)
- [HRSA COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement](#)
- [HRSA COVID-19 CAF Program](#)
- [J&J's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement](#)
- [BCBSTX COVID-19 Vaccines and Coverage](#)
- [Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot](#)



# Resources

- [Humana COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)
- [Cigna COVID-19 Resource](#)
- [UnitedHealthcare COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#)





# Questions

Questions?

TMA Practice Consulting

(800) 523- 8776

[practice.consulting@texmed.org](mailto:practice.consulting@texmed.org)

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