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**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2021

**NUMBER:** SPECIAL COVID-19 SUPPLEMENT #16 – COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE, BILLING AND REIMBURSEMENT

**TO:** ALL IN-STATE PROVIDERS

**FROM:** NICOLE COMEAUX, DIRECTOR, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION 

**TITLE:** COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE, BILLING AND REIMBURSEMENT

The purpose of this supplement is to provide coverage, billing and reimbursement information to health care providers that are administering the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **I. COVID-19 Vaccines & Vaccine Administration Coverage**

Retroactive to December 1, 2020 and for the duration of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration, New Mexico Medicaid will provide reimbursement for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine and vaccine administration for all eligible individuals.

The initial supply of this vaccine has been purchased and supplied by the Federal Government. The Medical Assistance Division (MAD) will implement reimbursement for the COVID-19 vaccine administration, according to the Medicare rates and guidelines. In addition, HSD is expanding benefits by covering the COVID-19 vaccine administration for the individuals who are under the categories identified below.

When the federally purchased supply of COVID-19 vaccine is no longer available, HSD will provide reimbursement for the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine administration for all eligible Medicaid individuals. Additionally, HSD is expanding this benefit for individuals eligible under the following Categories of Eligibility (COE):

- Family Planning - COE 029
- Uninsured Individuals - COVID-19 testing and related services Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) - COE 085; federal match 8
- Pregnancy related services - COE 301

Pending guidance from CMS on the coverage requirements outlined in the American Rescue Plan Act passed on March 11, 2021, HSD will update this document to address any changes for the Emergency Medicaid Services for Aliens (EMSA) (COE 085; federal match 4) population. Until we receive said guidance, providers can submit claims for COVID-19 vaccine administration, testing, testing related services, and treatment for the EMSA population through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal (<https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim>).

**Please see the links below for additional information:**

CMS toolkit for COVID Vaccine guidance:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/downloads/covid-19-vaccine-toolkit.pdf>

CDC requirements:

[https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim\\_Playbook.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf).

**II. Billing Requirements:**

This section provides guidance on how to bill for the COVID-19 vaccine administration, the related procedure codes, and the reimbursement rates. The billing guidance will apply for both the initial and the secondary dose. This guidance is applicable when the COVID-19 vaccine is administered in a clinic or offsite setting. This billing guidance applies to all Medicaid eligible individuals including those under COEs noted above. All providers noted below must follow the guidance in Section IV Provider agreements.

**a. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs):**

Billing on a UB-04 claim form, use physical health revenue code 0529 -Free-Standing Clinic-Other Free-Standing Clinic and append the associated HCPCS procedure code. Reimbursement will be made at the encounter rate.

**b. IHS and Tribal 638 Facilities:**

Billing on a UB-04 claim form with revenue code 0519-Clinic and append the associated HCPCS procedure code. Reimbursement will be made at the OMB rate.

**c. Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Hospital Based Rural Health Clinics (HBRHCs):**

Billing on a UB-04 claim form, RHCs should use revenue code 0521-Free Standing Rural Health Clinic and HBRHCs should use revenue code 0510-Clinic and append the associated HCPCS procedure code. Reimbursement will be made at the encounter rate.

**d. Physicians:**

Billing on a CMS-1500 claim form enter the associated HCPCS procedure code listed below. Reimbursement will be made at the fee schedule rate.

**e. Pharmacy Providers:**

The United States Health and Human Service (HHS) authorized qualified pharmacy technicians and state-authorized pharmacy interns acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist to administer FDA-authorized or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccinations to persons aged 3 or older. See requirements at:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/downloads/covid-19-vaccine-toolkit.pdf>

- Point-of-Sale claim: This would be billed in a similar way as other vaccine administration.

COVID-19 vaccine must be billed with \$0.01 (one cent) and the following fields need to be filled in:

Field#	NCPDP Field Name	Value
438-E3	Incentive Amount Submitted	Reimbursement based on Medicare methodology
440-E5	Professional Service Code	MA = Medication Administration

**f. Outpatient Hospital Billing:**

Billing on a UB-04 claim form, use revenue code 0779 (PREVENTIVE CARE SVCS-OTHER PREVENTIVE CARE SVCS) and append the related HCPCS procedure code listed below identifying the vaccine. Reimbursement will be at the fee schedule rate. The revenue code and the HCPCS code must be on the claim line to avoid claim and/or claim line denials and ensure accurate payment.

### **III. COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Reimbursement:**

HSD will follow all Medicare payment guidance and rates for COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine administration including the changes outlined below. Going forward, HSD will not issue additional supplements outlining any changes to the Medicare rate but instead will point providers to the link below which will contain the most current CMS guidance, codes, and rates for COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine administration.

For COVID-19 vaccine administration services furnished before March 15, 2021, the Medicare payment rate for a single-dose vaccine or for the final dose in a series was \$28.39. For a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of two or more doses, the payment rate was \$16.94 for the initial dose(s) in the series and \$28.39 for the final dose in the series.

On March 15, 2021, CMS updated the Medicare payment rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration. Effective for services furnished on or after March 15, 2021, the new Medicare payment rate for administering a COVID-19 vaccine is approximately \$40 to administer each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This means that starting on March 15, 2021, for single dose COVID-19 vaccines, Medicare pays approximately \$40 for its administration. Starting on March 15, 2021, for COVID-19 vaccines requiring multiple doses, Medicare pays approximately \$40 for each dose in the series.

The Medicare rates recognize the costs involved in administering the vaccine, including the additional resources involved with required public health reporting, conducting important outreach and patient education, and spending additional time with patients answering any questions they may have about the vaccine. Please see the most current CMS guidance, codes, and rates at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/medicare-covid-19-vaccine-shot-payment>

### **IV. Provider agreements:**

In order to receive free supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine(s), pharmacies, retail clinics and providers planning on administering COVID-19 vaccines must sign an agreement with the U.S. government and adhere to storage and recordkeeping requirements, including recording the administration of the vaccine to patients in their systems within 24 hours, and to public health data systems as soon as practical and within 72 hours. COVID-19 vaccines are covered regardless of whether the vaccine is delivered by an in-network or out-of-network provider. Providers will need to request access to the New Mexico Department of Health (NM DOH) Vaccine Provider Portal to meet the CMS requirements. Information and access to the NM DOH Vaccine Provider Portal can be located at: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/providers/vaccines/>

Please see the link below for CDC requirements:

[https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim\\_Playbook.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf).

Thank you for your service to New Mexicans during this emergency pandemic. This COVID-19 supplement will sunset when the Human Services Department determines that the national public health emergency associated with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been contained. Please contact the Medical Assistance Division at (505) 827-6252 or [MADInfo.HSD@state.nm.us](mailto:MADInfo.HSD@state.nm.us) if you have any questions regarding this guidance.