



PROVIDER UPDATE

(Effective 12/11/2020)

COVID-19 Vaccine Update for VHP's Covered California, Individual & Family Plans and Commercial Employer Group

Dear VHP Provider,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present extraordinary challenges, Valley Health Plan (VHP) is committed to keeping our network partners informed on the latest developments regarding the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. This Provider Update includes important information about the rapidly evolving news regarding the vaccines' availability, the individuals prioritized in each phase to receive it, and the steps VHP is taking to help you process vaccine-related reimbursement claims. The provision of COVID-19 vaccines are currently under the auspices of federal and state agencies. The health plan will cover administration of the vaccine. As more information becomes available the next few weeks, we will provide updates on the VHP website.

Business Requirements

On December 11, 2020, VHP received an All Plan Letter (APL 20-039) from the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) directing health plans to cover the cost of administration of qualifying COVID-19 vaccines, with no cost-sharing from members. This information is important to all providers that are contracted with VHP to serve Covered California (CoCA), Individual and Family Plans (IFP), and Commercial Employer Group (Classic and Preferred) members. Generally, VHP's Commercial Employer Group plans do not include any member cost-sharing (e.g., deductibles, co-insurance, and co-payments), while VHP's CoCA and IFP plans do contain cost-sharing. In accordance with DMHC's guidelines, providers should not collect a share of cost from any VHP members for the administration of qualified COVID-19 immunizations.

VHP has also been directed to cover, without cost-sharing, items and services that are integral to the furnishing of a recommended preventive service, including a recommended COVID-19 vaccine. If a COVID-19 vaccine is not billed or tracked as individual encounter data separately from an office visit and the primary purpose of the office visit is the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine, then VHP may not impose cost-sharing requirements with respect to the office visit (OV).

VHP is adjusting its claims payment system to reimburse providers for the negotiated reimbursement amount for the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine and associated OV plus the amount of the member's share cost, if applicable.

With the current supply of COVID-19 vaccines limited, VHP is following the guidance adopted by the State of California in the Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html>). As part of that plan, California is adopting the three-phased approach to vaccination developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In Phase 1, when the vaccine supply is expected to be available in small quantities, California will focus its efforts on vaccinating its critical populations, including healthcare personnel, people at increased risk for severe illness or death, and other essential workers. In Phases 2 to 3, as vaccine supply increases, vaccines will become available to a larger portion of the population. Further information about the allocation phases and prioritization tiers while the supply is limited can be found at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Allocation-Guidelines-for-COVID-19-Vaccine-During-Phase-1A-Recommendations.aspx>.

COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Billing Codes

The American Medical Association has announced vaccine-specific CPT codes for coronavirus (COVID-19) immunizations. Additional information is available at <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-announces-vaccine-specific-cpt-codes-coronavirus-immunizations>. Medicare has not yet established the final reimbursement rates for the administration of COVID-19 immunizations. Initial rates have been released, but are pending until geographic adjustments are completed.

Claims made to VHP must be submitted with the following codes to be eligible for reimbursement:

CPT Code	CPT Short Descriptor	Labeler Name	Vaccine/Procedure Name
91300	SARSCOV2 VAC 30MCG/0.3ML IM	Pfizer	Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 Vaccine
0001A	ADM SARSCOV2 30MCG/0.3ML 1ST	Pfizer	Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – First Dose
0002A	ADM SARSCOV2 30MCG/0.3ML 2ND	Pfizer	Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – Second Dose
91301	SARSCOV2 VAC 100MCG/0.5ML IM	Moderna	Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine
0011A	ADM SARSCOV2 100MCG/0.5ML1ST	Moderna	Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – First Dose
0012A	ADM SARSCOV2 100MCG/0.5ML2ND	Moderna	Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – Second Dose

Clarifying Questions and Business Decisions

1. When will the new COVID-19 billing codes be effective?	12/11/20
2. How does VHP know that the primary purpose of an OV is to administer a COVID-19 vaccine if the vaccine and OV are not billed on the same claim?	To ensure payment, the OV code must be billed in conjunction with the appropriate CPT codes referenced above.
3. Do these billing guidelines apply to Medi-Cal?	The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has not issued Medi-Cal guidelines for health plans and providers regarding the billing requirements for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccines.

4. What should a provider do with COVID-19 immunization administration claims until reimbursement is finalized?	Providers are encouraged to hold claims until notified by VHP that the reimbursement rates for Medicare are finalized and DHCS provides guidance on the Medi-Cal requirements for immunization administration.
5. Does VHP require authorization for COVID-19 immunization administration for VHP contracted providers?	No
6. Is VHP waiving authorization requirements for all services billed on the same claim as COVID-19 immunization/administration for VHP contracted providers?	Authorization is still required for services normally requiring authorization that are not related to COVID-19 immunization administration.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Provider Relations Representative or you can call the Provider Relations main line at 1-888-421-8444.