

June 17, 2022



COVID-19 vaccine administration and monoclonal antibody treatments Financial responsibility for Blue Shield of California benefit plans

Blue Shield of California (“Blue Shield”) will continue to support the health, safety, and well-being of our health plan members during the COVID-19 public health emergency, and we will keep you informed as you continue to provide care on the front lines.

Please check this section of the website periodically to stay informed. As changes in laws, mandates and business decisions occur, we will update this content to reflect the latest information. We will also continue to add announcements on this COVID-19 update page.

No member cost-sharing for administration of COVID-19 vaccines

In accordance with federal law, Blue Shield and Blue Shield Promise benefit plan members are not financially responsible for a copayment, co-insurance or deductible for administration fees associated with receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. This cost-sharing waiver applies to all commercial HMO, POS, PPO, and EPO plan members who have Blue Shield coverage under any individual and family, small group, and large group plans, including self-funded plans.

The waiver also applies to all Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plan members.

Cost of the COVID-19 vaccine

There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine for providers who are enrolled with the federal government program to receive the free vaccine distribution. Where applicable, coding and billing Blue Shield for reimbursement will apply only to the cost for **administration of the vaccine**. Please carefully review the information below to understand the details for billing for those services.

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Financial responsibility for administration of the COVID-19 vaccines

Blue Shield HMO commercial plan members

In order to support the efforts of our network HMO IPA/medical groups and reduce administrative burden, Blue Shield made a business decision to assume financial responsibility for the administrative cost of COVID-19 vaccines, effective December 11, 2020.

- This business decision applies to members with commercial HMO plan coverage and separates financial responsibility for this cost from administration of other types of vaccines.
- HMO IPA/medical groups will continue to be financially responsible for administration and drug costs for other vaccines in accordance with their provider agreement with Blue Shield. In cases where Blue Shield already carries financial responsibility for preventive vaccines and administration of the vaccine, there are no changes.
- Claims for vaccine administration may be submitted, when Blue Shield is financially responsible, using the codes available at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [website](#).

Blue Shield Medicare Advantage plan members

In accordance with CMS, and available at the CMS [website](#), costs associated with administration of the COVID-19 vaccines for Medicare Advantage plan members is the financial responsibility of Medicare Advantage health plans, for dates of service on and after **January 1, 2022**. Please ensure billing for those services are sent to **Blue Shield**.

Financial responsibility for administration of monoclonal antibody treatment

There is no cost for monoclonal antibody treatment to providers who are enrolled with the federal government program to receive the free monoclonal antibodies distribution.

Blue Shield HMO and PPO commercial plan members

- Contracted providers/provider organizations should bill Blue Shield directly for administration of the COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments.
- **Claims for administration costs (only) of monoclonal antibody treatments for these commercial plan members** may be submitted to Blue Shield, when Blue Shield is financially responsible, using the codes available at CMS' [website](#).
- These members are responsible for cost-sharing for this covered treatment.

Blue Shield Medicare Advantage members

- Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2022, costs for administration of monoclonal antibody products to Medicare Advantage plan members should be billed directly to Blue Shield for reimbursement. Information on this requirement appears on the CMS [website](#).
- Member cost-sharing for administration of COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments is waived for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plan members, in accordance with the CMS requirement.