

COVID-19 vaccines: cost-sharing, coding, and billing

At Blue Shield of California (Blue Shield) and Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise), we will continue to support the health, safety, and well-being of our members during this COVID-19 pandemic. We will keep you informed as you courageously provide care on the front lines during this challenging season.

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 the home page.

No member cost-sharing for COVID-19 vaccines

In accordance with federal law, Blue Shield 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.

Consistent with existing policy for Blue Shield Promise Medi-Cal and Cal MediConnect members, member cost-sharing does not apply.

Cost for COVID-19 vaccine

There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine to 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 coding and billing for vaccine administration.

Financial responsibility for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine

Claims for vaccine administration may be submitted, when Blue Shield is financially responsible, using the codes listed below.

The information in this chart is also available on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) [website](#):

Code	CPT Short Descriptor	Labeler Name	Vaccine/Procedure Name	Effective Dates
0001A	ADM SARSCOV2 30MCG/0.3ML 1ST	Pfizer	Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – First Dose	12/11/2020 – TBD
0002A	ADM SARSCOV2 30MCG/0.3ML 2ND	Pfizer	Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – Second Dose	12/11/2020 – TBD
0011A	ADM SARSCOV2 100MCG/0.5ML1ST	Moderna	Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – First Dose	12/18/2020 – TBD
0012A	ADM SARSCOV2 100MCG/0.5ML2ND	Moderna	Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Administration – Second Dose	12/18/2020 – TBD

The American Medical Association (AMA) published additional details about CPT codes to apply under the following circumstances:

Code	CPT long code descriptor	Effective date	Publication
90460, 90461, 90471-90474	Use the applicable code in addition to 0001A and 0002A, or 0011A and 0012A only when the physician or qualified health care professional provides face-to-face counseling of the patient/family during the administration of a vaccine other than when it is performed for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).	Effective upon receiving emergency use authorization or approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	CPT® 2022 ¹

Billing for Blue Shield Commercial HMO and PPO members

Contracted providers/provider organizations should bill Blue Shield directly for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Financial responsibility of delegated providers – updated January 21, 2021

In order to support the efforts of our network HMO IPA/medical groups and reduce administrative burden, Blue Shield has made a business decision to assume financial responsibility for COVID-19 vaccine administration cost, effective for dates of service on and after December 11, 2020. This business decision applies to members with commercial HMO plan coverage and separates 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, and billing should continue to follow the guidelines on page two.

If your IPA/medical group has already submitted claims for COVID-19 vaccine administration cost for Blue Shield HMO commercial plan members and those claims were denied prior to this business decision being made, please contact your Blue Shield Provider Relations representative immediately to receive assistance in obtaining reimbursement for those claims.

Billing for Medicare Advantage, Cal MediConnect and Medicare Supplement plan members

All costs for administration or any other associated costs for the COVID-19 for Medicare members, as stated in the guidelines available at the CMS [website](#), should be billed directly to CMS for fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement.

Billing for Medi-Cal plan members

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will carve out the COVID-19 vaccines and associated administration fees from the Medi-Cal managed care delivery system and will reimburse providers under Medi-Cal FFS policy for medical, pharmacy, and outpatient claims. For additional information, please visit DHCS' [website](#).

IMPORTANT: In accordance with a DHCS [announcement](#) on December 28, 2020, “**providers should continue to hold on submitting their claims to Medi-Cal at this time.**”² Providers will be notified in a future *News* article when Medi-Cal is ready to intake claims for the COVID-19 vaccine administration.”

¹CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association

²[Medi-Cal NewsFlash: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration: Preparing to Submit Medical and Outpatient Claims](#)