

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid
To: Pharmacies, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Expanded List of Allowable Vaccines for Pharmacy Providers

Expanded List of Allowable Vaccines

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after January 1, 2018, ForwardHealth will expand the list of allowable vaccines for pharmacy providers for members 6–18 years of age. This policy change is in response to 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, which authorizes reimbursement to trained pharmacy providers who enroll in the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. ForwardHealth will continue to reimburse pharmacy providers for influenza vaccines provided to adults and to children 6–18 years of age.

Immunizations Recommended for Children

Effective for DOS on and after January 1, 2018, Wisconsin Medicaid will reimburse pharmacy providers for all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for children 6–18 years of age. In general, all ACIP/CDC recommended vaccines for children are available through the VFC Program.

ForwardHealth does not publish best practice standards for immunizations provided to children. Pharmacy providers are responsible for keeping up-to-date on immunization best practice standards, including immunization schedules, dosages, and contraindications that are recommended by ACIP/CDC.

Provider Participation Requirements

Medicaid-enrolled pharmacies are required to meet the following requirements to be reimbursed for administering vaccines to children:

- The pharmacy is required to enroll in the VFC Program and comply with the requirements of the program. For enrollment information, refer to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/vfc.htm.
- The pharmacist administering the vaccine is required to have the authority and training to administer immunizations to children per the requirements of the Pharmacy Examining Board under Wis. Stat. ch. 450.
- The pharmacy is required to enter immunizations given in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) within **seven** days of administering the immunization, per Wis. Stat. § 252.04(9m). For more information about the WIR, refer to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/WIR.htm.

Allowable Procedure Codes

Pharmacy providers are required to indicate the *Current Procedural Terminology* procedure code of the actual vaccine administered, not the administration code, on claims for all vaccination services. Pharmacy providers should not separately bill the administration code.

Allowable procedure codes for vaccination services may change or be revised; therefore, providers should refer to the service-specific interactive maximum allowable fee schedules on the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/ for the most current list of allowable procedure codes. The fee schedules can be accessed by selecting the Fee Schedules link from the Providers quick links box on the Portal home page.

Claims submitted with National Drug Codes for vaccination services will be denied.

Claim Submission

Pharmacy providers may submit claims for allowable vaccines for members 6–18 years of age via the following:

- The 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form
- The 837 Health Care Claim: Professional electronic transaction
- Direct Data Entry on the Portal
- Provider Electronic Solutions claims submission software

Claims submitted using the Point-of-Sale system for vaccination services will be denied.

If a member is enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus HMO, pharmacy providers are required to submit claims to Wisconsin fee-for-service Medicaid. BadgerCare Plus HMOs are not able to accept claims from pharmacy providers.

Reimbursement for Allowable Vaccines Provided to Children

Most allowable vaccines provided to members 18 years of age or younger are available through the VFC Program at no cost to providers. In order to receive vaccines at no cost, providers are required to enroll in the VFC Program.

If an allowable vaccine is available through the VFC Program, Wisconsin Medicaid will reimburse only a \$15.00 administration fee to the pharmacy. For allowable vaccines that are not available through the VFC Program, Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement will include an amount for the vaccine plus a \$15.00 administration fee. Providers may refer

to the interactive fee schedule on the Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/ for current reimbursement rates.

For more information about VFC Program reimbursement, providers may refer to the Vaccines for Children Program topic (topic #3545) in the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the HealthCheck (EPSDT) service area of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health, DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

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This *Update* was issued on 12/04/2017 and information contained in this *Update* was incorporated into the Online Handbook on 01/02/2018.