

COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION FINANCE REFERENCE SHEET

Hospitals and physicians can bill public and private payers for the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. Due to the unique and specific instructions about the vaccinations, hospitals should carefully review each payer's guidelines.

Medicare developed a set of [toolkits](#) to help providers [prepare](#) to administer the vaccine. The following are highlights from the toolkit.

- [billing](#) and [coding](#)
- [payment](#) for Part B services using the Medicare [Physician Fee Schedule](#)
- Payment for hospital outpatient departments should use the Outpatient Prospective Payment System [January 2022 | CMS](#).
- Medicare beneficiaries will not be [responsible](#) for unmet deductible, copayment or coinsurance.
- Vaccine administration fees for beneficiaries enrolled in a Medicare Advantage product should be [billed](#) to Original Medicare through your Medicare Administrative Contractor.

The Missouri Department of Social Services issued a [Provider Bulletin](#) for **Medicaid** payment of vaccine administration fees. The bulletin addresses how physicians, hospital outpatient departments and pharmacy providers should bill for vaccine administration. Providers should bill the MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service program when vaccines are administered to a Medicaid Managed Care enrollee.

Hospitals should work with **nongovernmental payers** as to how the vaccine administration should be coded, billed and reimbursed. The Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance issued a [bulletin](#) last March that **encouraged** fully insured commercial insurers to “cover the immunizations at no cost-sharing for all covered members.”

Providers who administer the COVID-19 vaccine to **uninsured** patients can submit a [claim](#) to the Health Resources and Services Administration. HRSA will pay for the vaccine administration at a “Medicare-like” payment rate. Providers who wish to utilize this process are not allowed to “[balance bill](#)” the patient. Providers also will need to accept and adhere to the [terms and conditions](#) of the Uninsured Relief Fund Payment Program.

Providers who administer the vaccines can use CARES Act **Provider Relief Funds** to cover the unreimbursed cost associated with vaccine administration. However, funds may not be used to offset expenses that have been reimbursed from other sources or that other sources are obligated to reimburse. If reimbursement does not cover the full expense of administering the vaccine, PRF may be used to cover the remaining associated costs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services addresses the use of PRFs related to vaccine administration on page 38 of its [CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions \(hrsa.gov\)](#). Additional information about determining unreimbursed cost can be found on pages 17 and 18.