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**CHAPTER 37: PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

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**MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION**

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy has set minimum requirements regarding the administration of medications by licensed Louisiana pharmacists. Currently the Medicaid program will reimburse enrolled pharmacies when these credentialed pharmacists administer select adult vaccines.

**Louisiana Board of Pharmacy**

Pharmacists in Louisiana must be registered by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to administer medications. Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Regulations regarding Prescription Orders to Administer Medications may be found at LAC 46:LIII.521.

**Pharmacist Provider Number****Authorized Pharmacists**

Pharmacists who are registered with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and have the “*Authority to Administer*” must obtain a Medicaid pharmacist provider number in order to bill the Medicaid program. To confirm or request enrollment, authorized pharmacists should contact the Provider Enrollment Unit. (See Section 37.5.4 for contact information).

**National Provider Identifier (NPI)**

Pharmacists who have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) must report it to the fiscal intermediary and may include it in the claim submission.

**Adult Vaccine Administration by Pharmacist****Claim Requirements**

The Medicaid program will reimburse enrolled pharmacies when an immunization is given by a pharmacist who has a Louisiana Board of Pharmacy “*Authority to Administer*”. For COVID-19 vaccines only, the administration of the vaccine may be given by a pharmacist, and or qualified pharmacy technician and/or a state-authorized pharmacy intern acting under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist during a Public Health Emergency (PHE). The administering pharmacist’s Medicaid provider number or their NPI must be included on the claim.

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When a prescription for a select adult vaccine is written by a prescribing practitioner, that practitioner's NPI or Medicaid number should be included in the claim. When a prescription order does not exist, the vaccinating pharmacist shall enter their Medicaid provider number or NPI as the prescriber and submit the claim.

**Vaccination Reimbursement**

The Medicaid program reimburses enrolled pharmacies for the administration and the cost of select adult vaccines with the exception of vaccines supplied by the federal government. For the vaccines supplied by the federal government, the **administration fee only** is reimbursable. Currently, the ingredient cost of the COVID-19 vaccines are covered by the federal government.

No reimbursement of the vaccine or supplies will be made for children under the age of 19. Only the administration fee will be reimbursed for these beneficiaries.

**Bypassed Editing**

Claims for select adult vaccines will process without edits for the four prescription limit, requirements to bill other insurance and Lock-In.

**Copayments**

Beneficiaries may not be charged co-payments for select adult vaccines.

**NOTE:** See Section 37.5.1 for the link to access the Point of Sale User Guide for detailed information regarding the submission of these claims.

**Electronic Drug Clinical Inquiry (e-CDI)**

Paid claims for administration fees will be posted on the Electronic Clinical Drug Inquiry (e-CDI). When Medicaid reimburses a pharmacy for an administration fee claim, the name of the vaccine and date of payment will be listed. This application is available on the Louisiana Medicaid website.

**Vaccination Documentation**

For vaccine administration reimbursement, the pharmacist shall:

1. Be registered with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy with the "Authority to Administer" vaccines;

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2. Be registered as a Louisiana Medicaid provider;
3. Inform the individual that the administration of an immunization or vaccine is not to be construed as being in lieu of an annual preventive visit with the individual's primary care or family physician;
4. Access Louisiana Immunization Network Kids Statewide (LINKS) prior to immunization administration to verify appropriate utilization according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to prevent duplication, unnecessary doses, inappropriate age, etc., if possible;
5. Report each immunization to the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health's LINKS at the time of the immunization or as soon as reasonably practicable, thereafter;
6. Report all adverse events observed or which are reported to the pharmacist to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, or its successor program; and further, the pharmacist shall refer the patient with an adverse event to appropriate medical care; and
7. Request the name of a patient's primary care provider prior to the administering of any immunization. The pharmacist shall notify the primary care provider, by written or electronic communication, as soon as reasonably possible that the immunization was administered.

**For COVID-19 Vaccines Only:**

1. Report certain data elements to the CDC for each COVID-19 dose administered within 24 hours of administration, as a vaccination provider;
2. Pharmacy technicians and/or interns administering COVID-19 vaccines meet PREP Act qualifications;
3. The qualified pharmacy technicians and/or state-authorized pharmacy interns act under the supervision of a qualified pharmacist; and
4. The supervising qualified pharmacist of qualified pharmacy technicians and/or state-authorized interns must comply with CDC, state, and federal requirements for COVID-19 vaccine administration.