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Immunizations

Louisiana Medicaid covers immunizations for all beneficiaries in accordance with the schedule established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). For beneficiaries under the age of 21 years old, immunizations are given in conjunction with Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Preventive Services (Well-Child) visits or when other appropriate opportunities exist.

Vaccines for Children (VFC)

Section 1928 of the Social Security Act provides for vaccines for children (VFC) free of charge to enrolled public and private health care providers for eligible children. Persons eligible for VFC are between the ages of birth through 18 years and meet one of the following criteria:

- American Indian or Alaskan native, as defined by the Indian Health Services Act;
- Medicaid eligible;
- Uninsured; or
- Underinsured.

Underinsured individuals are those whose health insurance plan does not cover vaccines or has limited vaccine coverage. Underinsured children are eligible to receive vaccines only at Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, or Office of Public Health Parish Health Units.

All Medicaid enrolled providers that provide EPSDT Well Child Preventive Services must be enrolled in the VFC program and utilize VFC vaccines for beneficiaries aged birth through 18 years.

Providers can obtain a VFC enrollment packet by calling the Office of Public Health's (OPH) Immunization Section. (See Appendix A for contact information).

Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS)

Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS) is a secure, internet-based registry designed to track immunization records for providers and their patients. LINKS can be accessed through the OPH website. (See Appendix A for contact information).

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Providers can obtain a LINKS enrollment packet or learn more about LINKS by calling the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, OPH Immunization Program. (See Appendix A for contact information).

Combination Vaccines

A vaccine component refers to all the antigens (including multivalent antigens and antigen serotypes) in a vaccine that prevent disease(s) caused by one organism. Combination vaccines are those that contain more than one component. Combination vaccines are encouraged to maximize the opportunity to immunize and to reduce the number of injections that a child receives in a single visit. Louisiana Medicaid does not reimburse providers for administration of multiple single-component vaccines if a combination vaccine is medically appropriate and the combination vaccine is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Immunization Administration Coding

Louisiana Medicaid defines the administration of a vaccine as the delivery of a single component vaccine or combination vaccine via a single route, such as one injection, nasal spray, or oral dose. Providers must indicate the CPT code for the specific vaccine in addition to the appropriate administration CPT code(s) to receive reimbursement for the administration of appropriate immunizations. Providers are to refer to the *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT) code description and immunization fee schedules to determine the appropriate codes.

Reimbursement

Vaccines from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program are available at no cost to the provider and are required to be used for Medicaid beneficiaries who are from **birth through 18 years of age**. Therefore, CPT codes for vaccines available from the VFC Program will be paid at zero (\$0) for a beneficiary from birth through 18 years of age.

Providers must submit claims with their usual and customary charges for the vaccines for beneficiaries from 19 through 20 years of age, and for all beneficiaries aged 21 years of age and older. These claims will be reimbursed at the fee on file or the billed charges, whichever is lower.

Reimbursement rates can be found on the Immunization Fee Schedules located on the Louisiana Medicaid website. (See Appendix A for information on how to access the fee schedule).

Billing for Single Vaccine Administration

Providers must submit the appropriate CPT immunization administration code when administering one immunization. In addition, the CPT code for the vaccine must be included on the same claim.

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Billing for Multiple Administrations

When administering more than one immunization on a single date of service, providers are to bill as described for a single administration. In addition, the appropriate procedure code(s) (Immunization administration -each additional injection/administration/vaccine) is to be listed with the appropriate number of units for the additional vaccines placed in the “units” column. The specific vaccines are to be listed on subsequent lines. The number of vaccines listed must match the number of units listed in the “units” column.

Hard Copy Claim Filing for Greater Than Four Immunizations

Providers must bill on two CMS-1500 claim forms when billing hard copy claims for more than four immunizations and the six-line claim form limit is exceeded. The first claim must follow the instructions for billing for a single administration. A second CMS-1500 claim form can be used to bill the remaining immunizations as described for billing for multiple administrations.

Coverage of Vaccines for Young Adult (Ages 19 through 20) and Adult (21+)

For beneficiaries aged 19 years and older, providers are to submit claims using the appropriate immunization administration CPT code along with the specific vaccine CPT code and include their usual and customary billed amounts. Providers will be reimbursed for the vaccine and the administration based on the fee on file or the billed charges, whichever is lower.