

COVID-19 vaccine administration in FQHCs and RHCs throughout the Public Health Emergency

Summary of change: For dates of service on and after December 23, 2020, and throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration, CMS has approved an alternative payment methodology (APM) for federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs) to receive reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine administration.

What is the impact of this change?

Reimbursement will be the Medicare rate on file for each date of service. Guidance on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine administration is found in **IB 20-5** and **IB 21-11** and will be updated throughout the PHE. The relevant procedure codes for vaccine and vaccine administration are listed on the *COVID-19 Vaccine/Treatment Fee Schedule*, which will be updated as new information becomes available.

The COVID-19 fee schedules can be accessed via the link at https://www.lamedicaid.com/Provweb1/fee_schedules/COVID-19_Fee.htm.

Administration of COVID-19 vaccines as part of an otherwise billable FQHC/RHC encounter will be reimbursed as a part of the all-inclusive encounter rate and no separate reimbursement will be made. FQHCs/RHCs must submit the T1015 procedure code with detailed lines including both the respective COVID-19 vaccine and the appropriate administration code for reimbursement of the vaccine administration

Providers may begin submitting claims for dates of service on or after December 23, 2020. Louisiana Medicaid is aware of the timely filing issues that may arise as a result of the delayed CMS approval. Louisiana Medicaid will bypass timely filing for 90 days, until March 23, 2022, allowing providers to submit claims for dates of service from December 23, 2020, to March 22, 2021.

Healthy Blue and Gainwell Technologies will recycle all claims denied due to noncoverage of the vaccine and administration upon implementation of these changes. Healthy Blue will update our claims processing systems by December 15, 2021, and will recycle any claims that were not paid in accordance with these changes by December 30, 2021.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Experience representative or call Provider Services at **844-521-6942**.

<https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com>

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