

November 30, 2023

COVERAGE OF COMMERCIALIZED COVID-19 VACCINES BEGINS AS A PHARMACY BENEFIT

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATION:

Background:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued approval and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the following COVID-19 vaccines:

- As of Sept. 11, 2023:
 - 2023-2024 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine
 - 2023-2024 Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
- As of Oct. 3, 2023:
 - 2023-2024 Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

The new commercialized vaccines include a monovalent (single) component corresponding with the Omicron variant XBB.1.5. Unlike previous doses provided at no cost, commercialized COVID-19 vaccines are for purchase.

Key Details:

MCOs must request their pharmacy benefit manager to modify their systems and cover the COVID-19 Vaccine national drug codes (NDCs) listed in the attachment by Dec. 5, 2023.

NDCs for the COVID-19 vaccines began appearing on the daily formulary file for Medicaid and CHIP as a payable pharmacy benefit on Nov. 20. VDP backdated the effective date of formulary coverage accordingly to align with medical benefit requirements:

- Sept. 11 for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines
- Oct. 3 for the Novavax vaccine

MCOs should reprocess previously rejected claims for these COVID-19 vaccines administered within approved backdates for reimbursement. The "Submission Clarification Code" field (420-DK) is no longer required to adjudicate COVID-19 vaccines as HHSC will no longer cover the COVID-19 vaccines as non-risk.

Resources:

[covid vaccine list.pdf](#)