

COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Billing Guidance (Medical Benefit)

The New York Department of Health (DOH) has issued guidance that NYS Medicaid will provide reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccination counseling to Medicaid members/enrollees to encourage the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. The effective date of coverage is for dates of fill on or after December 1, 2021.

Link to guidance:

www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2021/no13_2021-11.htm#vaccine

Providers may bill for COVID-19 vaccine counseling provided to Medicaid members:

- as a stand-alone service when all the criteria specified in this guidance are met and documented.
- in addition to an Evaluation and Management(E&M) or Well Child Visit when all the criteria of the vaccine counseling visit specified in this guidance are met and documented, in addition to all of the necessary components of the E&M/Well Child visit.
- whether or not a COVID-19 vaccine is administered during the encounter.
- using the Medicaid enrolled child's Client Identification Number (CIN) when counseling is provided to a parent, caregiver, or guardian for the benefit of the child, with or without the child present during the counseling session.
- for up to four counseling visits per vaccine dose recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), when the member has not received and does not have an appointment to receive, the recommended dose, up to a total of 12 visits per member per year.

The COVID-19 vaccine counseling session must be documented in the medical or pharmacy record and must include the following:

- confirming that the patient is not currently – "up to date" with COVID-19 vaccine dosing, as recommended by the CDC.
- confirming vaccination status in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), whenever possible.
- confirming the patient does not already have an appointment scheduled to receive the vaccine dose for which they are being counseled.
- confirming patient consent, or consent of the parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate) to receive the counseling.
- the reasons expressed by the patient, parent, or caregiver for vaccine hesitancy.
- strongly recommending the COVID-19 vaccination (unless medically contraindicated, in which case the counseling session is not billable).
- counseling the patient, along with their parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate) on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.
- answering any questions the patient or parent, guardian, or caregiver has regarding COVID- 19 vaccination.
- counseling the patient, along with their parent, guardian, or caregiver (if appropriate) for a minimum of eight minutes.

- arranging for vaccination or providing information on how the patient can get vaccinated for COVID-19.

HCPCS code	Code Description	Fee
99429	Unlisted Preventive Medicine Service\$25.00	\$25.00