

Updated Identification, Specimen Collection, Testing, Vaccine Administration, and Treatment for Suspected Cases of Orthopoxvirus/Monkeypox

This article supersedes the *Identification, Specimen Collection, Testing, Vaccine Administration, and Treatment for Suspected Cases of Orthopoxvirus/Monkeypox* article published in the June 2022 Medicaid Update, located at: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2022/no07_2022-06.htm. On July 29, 2022, New York State (NYS) Governor Kathy Hochul signed Executive Order No. 20, located at: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/EO%2020.pdf>, declaring a disaster emergency in NYS due to the ongoing spread of the monkeypox virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is tracking multiple cases of orthopoxvirus/monkeypox that have been reported in several countries that do not normally report orthopoxvirus/monkeypox, including the United States (U.S.). The CDC is urging health care providers in the U.S. to be on alert for patients who have rash illnesses consistent with orthopoxvirus/monkeypox, as explained on the CDC Monkeypox “Clinical Recognition” web page, located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>.

An orthopoxvirus/monkeypox rash may look like blisters or pimples, and can appear on the face, inside the mouth, or on other areas of the body such as the genitals, anus, hands, or feet. In addition to a rash, other symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, muscle aches, and backache. Additional information on the symptoms related to orthopoxvirus/monkeypox can be found on the CDC Monkeypox “Signs and Symptoms” web page, located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/symptoms.html>. Updated total cases of confirmed orthopoxvirus/monkeypox in NYS can be found on the NYS Department of Health (DOH) “Monkeypox” web page, located at: <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/#:~:text=As%20of%20July%201%2C%202022,and%201%20in%20Suffolk%20County>.

Testing

Monkeypox testing is available at the NYS DOH Wadsworth Center Biodefense Laboratory and the New York City (NYC) Public Health Laboratory. Specimen collection and submission must be coordinated with the Local County Health Department (LCHD) and/or NYS DOH. Within NYC, coordination must be done in consultation with the NYC DOH.

The NYS DOH Wadsworth Center will accept specimens collected and transported in *viral transport media (VTM)* or collected and transported *dry*. Specimens in VTM can be tested for orthopoxvirus, varicella-zoster virus (VZV), and herpes simplex viruses (HSVs): HSV-1 and HSV-2. Specimens collected dry can only be tested for orthopoxvirus. Testing for other viruses should be done locally. Providers can refer to the NYS DOH, Wadsworth Center “Monkeypox Testing Guidance” web page, located at: <https://www.wadsworth.org/monkeypox-testing-guidance>, for additional testing information. The NYC Public Health Laboratory will accept specimens collected and transported in *viral transport media (VTM)* or collected and transported *dry*. Specimens will only be tested for orthopoxvirus. Testing for other viruses should be done locally. Providers can refer to the *Instructions for Submission of Specimens for Monkeypox Testing to the New York City Public Health Laboratory*, located at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/labs/monkeypox-specimen-testing.pdf>, for more information.

Additional labs are being approved to support diagnostic orthopoxvirus testing. **Effective July 26, 2022**, enrolled NYS Medicaid lab providers approved for this testing may bill the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code “**87593**” [Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); orthopoxvirus (e.g., monkeypox virus, cowpox virus, vaccinia virus), amplified probe technique, each] for testing provided to Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) members. Providers who are already receiving funding from another source for these tests, are not eligible for reimbursement. A temporary fee of \$51.31 has been assigned, until more information is available.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) made a recent announcement that test results from commercial laboratories showing orthopoxvirus detected are definitive for monkeypox virus, because it is the only circulating orthopoxvirus in the U.S. Although no longer a requirement, the CDC would like to continue to receive positive samples from commercial laboratories to aid in surveillance. Without confirmation, commercial laboratories must also be clear in their report that the sample was positive for orthopoxvirus and assumed to definitively indicate monkeypox.

Reporting

Health care providers must immediately report suspected cases of orthopoxvirus/monkeypox to their LCHD. Reporting should be to the county where the patient resides. For reporting outside of NYC, contact information can be found on the NYS DOH "County Health Departments" web page, located at: https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/. Providers who are unable to reach the LCHD where the patient resides must contact the NYS DOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC) by telephone at (518) 473-4439 during business hours or (866) 881-2809 during evenings, weekends, and holidays. NYC residents suspected of monkeypox infection should be reported to the NYC DOH Provider Access Line (PAL) by telephone at (866) 692-3641.

For additional information including specimen collection and virus images, providers can refer to the Health Advisory: Monkeypox Outbreak, United States, released on June 17, 2022 by the Wadsworth Center, NYC Public Health Laboratory, and CDC: https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/docs/2022-06-17_han.pdf.

Vaccines

The CDC is providing two, free immunizations, licensed by the U.S. FDA, **JYNNEOS** (also known as Imvamune or Imvanex) and **ACAM2000**. Monkeypox vaccine administration is a covered benefit in both NYS Medicaid FFS and Medicaid Managed Care (MMC). NYS Medicaid FFS and MMC Plans will reimburse providers for the administration of these vaccines. For individuals enrolled in MMC, providers should check with the individual's MMC Plan for billing instructions. LCHD Article 28 clinics may bill NYS Medicaid FFS for the administration of these vaccines to Medicaid FFS members by submitting an ordered ambulatory claim with the following CPT codes effective for dates of service on or after July 26, 2022.

CPT Code	Code Description	Vaccine Name
90611	Smallpox and monkeypox vaccine, attenuated vaccinia virus, live, nonreplicating, preservative free, 0.5 mL dosage, suspension, for subcutaneous injection	JYNNEOS (Imvamune or Imvanex)
90622	Vaccinia (smallpox) virus vaccine, live, lyophilized, 0.3 mL dosage, for percutaneous use	ACAM2000

For Medicaid FFS members **19 years of age and older**, providers must bill the CPT code "90471" for vaccine administration and the CPT code of the vaccine administered appended with the "FB" modifier (indicating an adult vaccine supplied at no cost). Providers will be reimbursed \$13.23 for the administration of the vaccine. For Medicaid FFS members **under 19 years of age**, providers must bill the CPT code "90460" for vaccine administration and the CPT code of the vaccine administered appended with the "SL" modifier (indicating a child vaccine supplied at no cost). Providers will be reimbursed \$17.85 for the administration of the vaccine. Article 28 clinics that partner with LCHDs for vaccine administration should follow the billing guidelines listed above. Similarly, private practitioners [i.e., physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs), and midwives (MWs)] may bill a professional claim for vaccine administration using the billing guidelines listed above.

School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) would follow the ordered ambulatory billing instructions above and append the “HA” modifier to both the CPT code for the vaccine administered (in addition to the appropriate “FB” or “SL” modifier) and CPT code for vaccine administration.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), including SBHCs designated as FQHCs (SBHC/FQHC), may submit a Prospective Payment System (PPS) threshold clinic claim if the vaccine is administered as part of an encounter in which a significant procedure and/or medical visit accompanies the vaccination. FQHCs and SBHC/FQHCs that bill under the PPS rate should not submit a claim for reimbursement seeking the PPS threshold clinic visit rate when the only service provided to a member is a vaccine administration. Instead, FQHCs should seek reimbursement for vaccine administration as an ordered ambulatory service following the ordered ambulatory billing instructions above. SBHC/FQHC must append the “HA” modifier to both the CPT code for the vaccine administered (in addition to the appropriate “FB” or “SL” modifier) and CPT code for vaccine administration when billing an ordered ambulatory claim.

Please note: Executive Order No.20 suspends consent requirements for reporting monkeypox vaccinations and requires providers to report monkeypox vaccine administrations with 72 hours of administration to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) or Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). Additional Information on NYSIIS is located on the NYS DOH “New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)” web page, at: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/. Additional information on CIR is located on the City of NY “Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR)” web page, at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services/citywide-immunization-registry-cir.page>.

Pharmacy Billing

A pharmacist may administer vaccinations against monkeypox pursuant to a patient specific or non-patient specific order. Pharmacies must submit the vaccine claim via the National Council for Prescription Drug Program (NCPDP) D.0 format as described below.

- Submit the CPT code of the vaccine in field 407-D7 [Product/Service Identification Number (ID)] with a value of \$0.00 in field 409-D9 (Ingredient Cost Submitted).
- Medicaid members **19 years of age and older:**
 - Submit the CPT code “90471” for vaccine administration in field 407-D7 (Product/Service ID).
- Medicaid members **under 19 years of age:**
 - Submit the CPT code “90460” for vaccine administration in field 407-D7 (Product/Service ID).

Billing Instructions

NCPDP D.0 Claim Segment Field	Value
436-E1 (Product/Service ID Qualifier)	Value of "09" (HCPCS), which qualifies the code submitted in field 407-D7 (Product/Service ID) as a procedure code
407-D7 (Product/Service ID)	Enter the applicable procedure codes listed above
409-D9 (Ingredient Cost Submitted)	Enter a value of \$0.00
442-E7 (Quantity Dispensed)	Enter the value of “1” for the procedure administration code
405-D5 (Day Supply)	Enter the value of “1”
411-DB (Prescriber ID)	Enter prescriber National Provider Identifier (NPI) number

For guidance on origin code and serial number values that must be submitted on the claim, providers can refer to the *Matching Origin Codes to Correct Prescription Serial Number in Medicaid Fee-for-Service* article published in the July 2020 issue of the *Medicaid Update*, located at: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2020/docs/mu_no12_jul20.pdf.

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Treatment

Tecovirimat, also known as TPOXX or ST-246, is FDA-approved for the treatment of human smallpox disease caused by Variola virus in adults and children. Tecovirimat is used for other orthopoxvirus infections, including monkeypox, and is not FDA-approved; therefore, the CDC holds non-research expanded access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol that allows for the use of tecovirimat for primary or early empiric treatment of non-variola orthopoxvirus infections, including monkeypox, in adults and children of all ages. TPOXX is available through the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). To request TPOXX, clinicians and care facility pharmacists can contact their state/territorial health department or CDC by calling the Emergency Operations Center at (770) 488-7100 or by emailing Poxvirus@cdc.gov. Additional CDC information for providers regarding obtaining TPOXX can be found on the CDC Monkeypox “Information for Healthcare Providers on Obtaining and Using TPOXX (Tecovirimat) for Treatment of Monkeypox” web page, located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/obtaining-tecovirimat.html>.

Questions and Additional Information:

- Additional Information regarding orthopoxvirus/monkeypox and monkeypox vaccinations is available on the NYS DOH “Monkeypox” web page, located at: <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/>, and on the NYC Health “Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus)” web page, located at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/monkeypox.page>.
- FFS claim questions should be directed to the eMedNY Call Center at (800) 343-9000.
- FFS coverage and policy questions should be directed to the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) Division of Program Development and Management (DPDM) by telephone at (518) 473-2160 or by email at FFSMedicaidPolicy@health.ny.gov.
- MMC general coverage questions should be directed to the OHIP Division of Health Plan Contracting and Oversight (DHPCO) by email at covques@health.ny.gov or by telephone at (518) 473-1134.
- MMC reimbursement, billing, and/or documentation requirement questions should be directed to the enrollee’s MMC Plan.
- MMC Plan contact information can be found in the eMedNY *New York State Medicaid Program Information for All Providers – Managed Care Information* document, located at: https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/AllProviders/PDFS/Information_for_All_Providers_Managed_Care_Information.pdf.
