

**COVID-19 Vaccine  
Provider FAQ  
As of Dec. 10, 2020**

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**General**

**Who will get the vaccine first?**

The vaccine will be allocated, distributed and administered to the public in phases based on availability determined by federal, state and local government authorities. Health officials have recommended, as interim guidance, that both health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities be offered the COVID-19 vaccine in the initial phase of the vaccination program.

North Carolinians should refer to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ([NCDHHS](#)) for information on who is eligible to receive the vaccine. The first phase of distribution in North Carolina, based on the NCDHHS plan, will be focused primarily on:

- Health care workers and medical first responders with a high risk of exposure to the virus or with two or more chronic illnesses
- Staff and residents living or working in congregate settings such as long-term care, jails, prisons and migrant camps
- Individuals with two or more chronic illnesses (comorbidities)

Members who live outside of North Carolina will need to follow their local and state guidelines to determine how they should receive the vaccine. States will determine the appropriate staging on who gets the vaccine first and how it will need to be administered based on supply.

#### How will providers manage inventory, track vaccine administration and determine patient eligibility?

According to [NCDHHS](#), the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) is a cloud-based vaccine management solution for COVID-19 that enables vaccine management and data sharing across providers, hospitals, agencies and local, state and federal governments on one common platform. NC state officials will enroll providers and verify provider eligibility with verifying site readiness. Providers will use the tool to verify patient eligibility, log dosage administration and track frequency and timing of additional dosages.

#### How does this impact Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) members who receive the vaccine outside of North Carolina?

For Blue Cross NC members living or traveling outside of North Carolina, the federal government will cover the cost of the vaccine and Blue Cross NC (or the ASO group, for customers on those plans) will cover the cost of administration fees during the public health emergency. After the public health emergency, the cost of the vaccine and administrative fees will be covered as preventative services and reimbursement will depend on whether the provider is in network or out-of-network.

#### What if a member gets the vaccine at a retail pharmacy?

For COVID-19 vaccines administered at pharmacies, claims will be covered with no member cost share. Retail pharmacies are able to file vaccine claims under the medical or pharmacy benefits for commercial members. Both in (INN) and out-of-network (OON) pharmacies will be able to bill Prime for the vaccine administration and they will be reimbursed.

## Claims, Coding and Reimbursement

#### Which plans will not have administrative fees covered?

All plans offered by Blue Cross NC will have the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine and administration fees covered with no cost-sharing to members. This includes Medicare Advantage plans offered or administered by Blue Cross NC, including Experience Health.

Medicare will cover, at no member cost-share, both the vaccine and the administration fee in 2020 and 2021. For members on a commercial plan, the federal government will cover the vaccine costs during the public health emergency. Blue Cross NC (or the ASO group, for customers on those plans) will cover the cost of vaccine administration fees. After the public health emergency, Blue Cross NC and ASO groups will be required to cover the cost for the vaccine and administration costs at 100 percent for in-network providers.

#### Are there differences in coding for different segments?

For Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage members: During the public health emergency, providers should file claims related to the vaccine and administration of the vaccine directly to Traditional Medicare. If providers file vaccine-related claims with Blue Cross NC during the emergency,

the system will deny the claim and advise the provider to file with Traditional Medicare for Medicare Advantage members.

For customers on a grandfathered group plan, vaccines will be available at no member cost-share. Blue Cross NC and Administrative Services Only (ASO) groups will cover vaccine administration fees during the public health emergency. Providers should submit claims to Blue Cross NC for grandfathered plans.

For commercial members, providers should use the following table for coding purposes. Additionally, retail pharmacies are able to file all vaccine claims under the medical or pharmacy benefits for commercial members.

Vaccine Code	Vaccine Code Descriptor	Vaccine Admin Code(s)	Vaccine Manufacturer	Vaccine Name(s)	Labeler Product ID (Vial)	Dosing Interval
91300	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted, for intramuscular use	0001A (1st dose) 0002A (2nd dose)	Pfizer, Inc	Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	59267-1000-1 59267-1000-01	21 days
91301	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use	0011A (1st dose) 0012A (2nd dose)	Moderna, Inc	Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	80777-273-10 80777-0273-10	28 days

**How will reimbursement work for in-network providers (INN)?**

The Medicare allowed amount for administration of the first dose and second dose is \$16.94 and \$28.39 respectively. This will be the same allowed amount for commercial customers.

Estimated COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Fees	In-Network Providers	
	First Dose	Second Dose
Medicare Customers (Medicare allowed amount for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration)	\$16.94	\$28.39

Commercial Customers (Allowed amount for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration)	\$16.94	\$28.39
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Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns about a claim?

You can submit details to our [Claims Escalation team via this form](#).

## Out-of-Network Providers

Will patients be balance billed if they see an out-of-network provider?

Current federal regulations prohibit any provider from balance billing patients for the COVID-19 vaccine.

How will reimbursement work if a provider is out of network (OON)?

According to recent federal legislation, Blue Cross NC must pay the OON provider directly for the administration fees based on the prevailing rate and providers must accept that as payment in full. The Medicare allowed amount for administration of the first dose and second dose is \$16.94 and \$28.39 respectively. This will be the same allowed amount for commercial customers.

Estimated COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Fees	Out-of-Network Providers	
	First Dose	Second Dose
Medicare Customers (Medicare allowed amount for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration)	\$16.94	\$28.39
Commercial Customers (Allowed amount for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration)	\$16.94	\$28.39

Will out-of-network (OON) providers be reimbursed after the public health emergency?

Yes, after the public health emergency, the vaccine administrative fees are covered as preventative services. While Blue Cross NC covers preventative care services from OON providers, cost-sharing will be applied in accordance with the member's benefits.