



PHARMACY FACTS

Current Information for pharmacists about
the MassHealth Pharmacy Program

www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts

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Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Third Dose Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Billing Information, Apo-Varenicline Coverage, and Guidance for DME/OXY Providers

MassHealth is sending this Pharmacy Facts to provide updates on claim submission for members receiving a third Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine dose, coverage for Apo-Varenicline, and a 10% rate add-on for durable medical equipment and oxygen and respiratory therapy (DME/OXY) providers. MassHealth has also included links to previously issued guidance about billing for COVID-19 vaccination.

Administration of a Third Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

On August 12, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to allow for the use of an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals: specifically, solid organ transplant recipients or those who are diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise.

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after August 12, 2021, MassHealth is covering the third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for individuals who

qualify for the additional dose. For claims submitted for a third dose on or after August 23, 2021, the pharmacy should submit a Submission Clarification Code (NCPDP field 420-DK) value of 7 "Medically Necessary." For claims submitted for a third dose before August 23, 2021, a Submission Clarification Code value of 6 "Starter Dose" may be used. The allowable administration fee remains \$45.87. All previous billing guidance remains in effect.

Apo-Varenicline

Pfizer has issued recalls for specific lot numbers of the drug Chantix, which is used for smoking cessation. The recall is causing a shortage in the marketplace for this drug. To address this situation, the FDA is temporarily allowing the importation of apo-varenicline, manufactured by Apotex in Canada.

MassHealth Pharmacy Regulations at 130 CMR 406.412 state:

Prescription Drugs. The MassHealth agency pays only for prescription drugs that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and manufactured by companies that have signed rebate agreements with the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396r-8.

Notwithstanding 130 CMR 406.412, MassHealth recognizes that the use of apo-varenicline is an important therapy, and will pay claims for imported apo-varenicline, though it is not FDA-approved, through and including September 30, 2021, as long as the FDA is allowing its

importation and there is not an FDA-approved product available for purchase. MassHealth anticipates issuing further guidance for the period after October 1, 2021, if the shortage continues.

DME/OXY Provider Updates

On July 19, 2021, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) issued 101 CMR 447.00: Rates for Certain Home- and Community-based Services Related to Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act, which includes a 10% rate add-on for DME/OXY providers for dates of service from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. This does not apply to non-drug products paid for through the MassHealth Pharmacy Online Processing System (POPS).

MassHealth has completed updates to the agency's claims system to allow DME/OXY providers to bill and be reimbursed for the rates established under [101 CMR 447.00](#). To view specific rates, we recommend that providers view the Service Codes Spreadsheet XLSX document.

MassHealth will be adjusting all submitted provider claims for dates of service between July 1, 2021, and August 27, 2021, to account for the increased rates. DME/OXY providers will not need to resubmit claims or request claims adjustments from the MassHealth agency for any claims submitted without the supplemental add-on rate for dates of service before August 27, 2021. After August 27, 2021, providers are expected to bill for DME/OXY services using the higher rates established under 101 CMR 447.00.

MassHealth is in the process of adjusting prior authorizations that require manual pricing, allow for monthly deliveries, and span the dates that include the 10% rate add-on. MassHealth will perform a mass adjustment on these claims once complete. Providers are not required to take any action at this time.

If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact the LTSS Service Center at (844) 368-5184 or support@masshealthltss.com.

Previous COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

MassHealth has issued the following all-provider bulletins and Pharmacy Facts about vaccine administration for COVID-19.

All-Provider Bulletin 304: Coverage and Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration, Testing, and Monoclonal Antibody Product Infusion

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-304-coverage-and-payment-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 307: Updated Payment Rates and Authorized Providers for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-307-updated-payment-rates-and-authorized-providers-for-coronavirus-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 312: Additional Authorized Vaccine Product and Antibody Treatment and Update to Authorized Providers and Coverage Policy for MassHealth Limited Members for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-312-additional-authorized-vaccine-product-and-antibody-treatment-and-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 313: Updated Rates for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-313-updated-rates-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-administration-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 317: Update to Authorized Providers for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-317-update-to-authorized-providers-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-administration-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 318: Update about Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-318-update-about-mono-clonal-antibody-treatment-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 319: Coverage and Reimbursement Policy Updates for Services Related to COVID-19 After the Termination of the State of Emergency

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-319-coverage-and-reimbursement-policy-updates-for-services-related-to-covid-19-after-the-termination-of-the-state-of-emergency-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 320: Expiration of Temporary Extension of Timely Replies for Initial Notices of Overpayment during COVID-19 Emergency

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-320-expiration-of-temporary-extension-of-timely-replies-for-initial-notices-of-overpayment-during-covid-19-emergency-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 321: Coverage and Reimbursement Policy for Services Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Counseling

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-321-coverage-and-reimbursement-policy-for-services-related-to-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-counseling-0/download>

All-Provider Bulletin 322: Coverage for Third Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-322-coverage-for-third-dose-of-pfizer-biontech-and-moderna-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-for-immunocompromised-individuals-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 160: COVID Vaccine Billing Information

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-160-january-22-2021-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 162: COVID Vaccine Billing Information

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-162-march-25-2021-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 165: COVID Vaccine Billing Information

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-165-may-24-2021-0/download>