

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2266-MC-FFS-CVD**

**DATE:** September 29, 2021

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospital, Physician MD, Physician DO, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), Clinic, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), Psychologist, Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Social Worker, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Behavioral Health and Physician Assistant Providers, Area Education Agency (AEA), and Local Education Agency (LEA), Nursing Facilities/Skilled Nursing Facilities (NF/SNF), Pharmacies

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC) and Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Third Dose

**EFFECTIVE:** August 27, 2021

The purpose of this informational letter is to inform and update providers regarding the authorization of an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine following an initial 2-dose primary series of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for certain immunocompromised individuals. Information regarding billing and coding for administration fees is included below.

**COVID-19 Vaccines**

On August 12, 2021, the 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. The FDA's action does not apply to people who are not immunocompromised. Learn more [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Additionally, on August 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also unanimously recommended a third

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-additional-vaccine-dose-certain-immunocompromised>

dose of mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine after an initial 2-dose primary series of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals. Learn more [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Medicaid Billing/CPT Codes**

At this time, there is no charge for the vaccine as it is being acquired and distributed by the federal government. IME will pay for the administration of a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals effective August 12, 2021. IME will pay for the administration of the additional dose at the Medicare rate of \$40. Providers should bill for the administration of the additional dose using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 0003A for the Pfizer vaccine and 0013A for the Moderna vaccine. Roster billing will not be available for providers.

Providers should submit Medicaid member claims to the member's Managed Care Organization (MCO) or through the FFS program as applicable to the member. Claims for vaccine administration will be processed through the medical benefit and not pharmacy point of sale (POS). Providers must use the appropriate administration codes for the specific vaccine and specific dose being administered.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Billing for Uninsured**

Providers administering the vaccine to people without health insurance or whose insurance does not provide coverage of the vaccine, can request reimbursement for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured Fund. See <https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim><sup>3</sup>. Additional resources may be found on the [Iowa Department of Public Health \(IDPH\) website](#)<sup>4</sup>.

**Please note:** The National Drug Code (NDC) and vaccine code must also appear on the claim. No reimbursement will be paid for the vaccine while the vaccine is being provided by the federal government.

At this time, the additional dose is only available to immunocompromised individuals. Providers should maintain appropriate records regarding the provision of the additional dose and may be subject to post-payment review.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim>

<sup>4</sup> <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Vaccine/Information-for-Vaccine-Providers>