

Please review the following guidelines and procedures to avoid most common billing errors associated with COVID-19 vaccines.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved COVID-19 vaccines

There are currently two manufacturers for COVID-19 vaccines available via emergency use authorization: Moderna and Pfizer:

- Pharmacies will be reimbursed for the vaccine administration fee. Pharmacies will not be reimbursed for the cost of the vaccine because these products are provided without charge by the federal government.
- Although pharmacies will not be reimbursed a product cost, pharmacies are still required to submit accurate claim information documenting the administration of the vaccine and the administration fee claim.
- The Moderna vaccine should be billed for a quantity of 0.5mL. Duration between first and second doses is 28 days. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) allows for the second dose to be provided no earlier than day 24.
- The Pfizer vaccine should be billed for a quantity of 0.3mL. Duration between first and second doses is 21 days. The CDC allows for the second dose to be provided no earlier than day 17.
- The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are not interchangeable. Both doses of a series should be completed with the same product.
- The minimum patient age to receive the Moderna vaccine is age 18. The minimum patient age to receive the Pfizer vaccine is age 16.

Common billing errors

Pharmacies should be diligent in submitting accurate vaccine claims data. In addition to pharmacy payment, this data is relied upon to determine whether patients are receiving vaccines in accordance with CDC and manufacturer guidelines. Please avoid the following billing errors:

- Submission of incorrect quantity. For example, billing a quantity of 1, 0.750, 5, or 0.050, when a quantity of 0.5mLs should be submitted.
- Billing the second dose earlier than supported by the manufacturer guidelines.
- Incorrect use of the “06” submission clarification code (SCC) on the first dose rather than correctly used on the second dose.
- Incorrect use of the Professional Service Code which should be submitted as “MA” (Medication Administered).
- Failure to reverse claims submitted when appointments are scheduled and the patient does not arrive for the appointment or cancels.
- Submitting an NDC (national drug code) for the incorrect manufacturer.
- Submitting claims for more than two vaccine doses for the same patient.
- Only the vaccine administration fee is eligible for reimbursement by Prime. A vaccine cost should not be submitted.

COVID-19 vaccine administration claims are subject to pharmacy audits and incorrect claim submission resulting in inaccurate payments may be recovered. If you have any questions, please contact Prime’s pharmacy audit department at pharmacyaudit@primetherapeutics.com.