

DATE: October 16, 2023

TO: All AHCCCS Contracted Health Plans

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SUBJECT: Changes in COVID Vaccination Coverage

In response to the end of the Public Health Emergency, CMS has updated the codes and coverage for COVID vaccinations. Both vaccine and administration fees will be separately reimbursed, as appropriate.

Effective September 11, 2023, AHCCCS has updated the COVID vaccine codes to be reported as coverage 01. AHCCCS also has added the age appropriate COVID vaccines to the VFC table for those members 18 years of age and younger.

All COVID vaccines for those members 18 years of age and younger must be obtained through a VFC-registered provider and be reported using the code 90480 with all the documentation requirements for any vaccine administration for those that are COVID related (see related). AHCCCS will no longer be reimbursing pharmacies for COVID vaccine administration for members 18 years of age and younger.
<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/vaccine-long-descriptors.pdf>.

Health plans should follow the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for announcements of new COVID vaccine codes to see if the new codes are FDA approved. AHCCCS will only cover those COVID vaccines if they are FDA Emergency Use Authorization approved, from the date of the FDA approval.

The AMA also announced that some of the current vaccines and codes will be closed and no longer valid for dates of service on and after November 1, 2023. More information can be found at:
<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/vaccine-long-descriptors.pdf>

A new administration code for the COVID vaccine has been created: CPT 90480 Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, single dose and includes:

All components influenza vaccine, report one time only;

Combination vaccines which comprise multiple vaccine components.

Components (all antigens) in vaccines to prevent disease due to specific organisms;

Counseling by physician or other qualified healthcare professional;

Multivalent antigens or multiple antigen serotypes against single organisms are considered one Component

Beginning on Aug. 14, 2023, the CPT Editorial Panel approved the addition of new product codes 91318-91322 (91318 , 91319 , 91320 , 91321 , 91322) to identify monovalent vaccine product for immunization against COVID-19 (Pfizer, Moderna); retained existing Novavax Product Code 91304 for currently authorized vaccine product available for use in the U.S. and the updated (XBB.1.5) vaccine; deletion and/or revision of all other existing COVID codes (product and administration with associated guidelines and parenthetical note deletions/revisions); and addition of a single administration code (90480) for administration of new (i.e., 91318-91322) and existing (i.e., 91304) COVID-19 vaccine product. **These codes are to be used in conjunction with the new COVID administration code 90480.**

All existing CPT codes that describe COVID-19 vaccine products and associated administration codes that end in "A" for products that are no longer covered under an existing Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or Biologics License Application (BLA) from the FDA will be end dated effective Nov. 1, 2023. AHCCCS will update the system to close these codes on 10/31/23.

On the AHCCCS website, the COVID Billing Guide will be removed from the Medical Coding Resources page. AHCCCS will not be publishing the COVID vaccine changes on a separate document as was done during the PHE. As with any new code that is closed, opened, or revised, it is up to the provider/entity to make sure they are using the correct code and following the most current coding guidelines and code sets. Most of these changes will not be in the new CPT book until 2025 and is highly recommended providers follow the AMA for all upcoming COVID changes.

Please share this information within your organization and provider network.