

Home health care agencies can administer the COVID-19 vaccine in the home for eligible patients

To facilitate access to the COVID-19 vaccine for our members, we're expanding COVID-19 vaccine reimbursement to home health care agencies to administer the vaccine within the member's home for eligible patients. (Home health care agencies can already administer vaccines to homebound patients.)

Blue Cross and BCN are following the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' guidelines for determining which patients qualify for in-home COVID-19 vaccination. Patients qualify if they meet one of these requirements:

- The patient has difficulty leaving the home to get the vaccine, which includes:
 - Having a condition, due to an illness or injury, that restricts their ability to leave home without a supportive device or help from a paid or unpaid caregiver
 - Having a condition that makes them more susceptible to contracting a pandemic disease like COVID-19
 - Being generally unable to leave the home, and if they do leave home it requires a considerable and taxing effort
- The patient is hard to reach due to a disability or faces clinical, socioeconomic or geographic barriers to getting a COVID-19 vaccine in settings other than their home. This includes patients with challenges with transportation, communication or caregiving.

The provider must document the patient's clinical status or barriers that justified the in-home vaccination in the patient's medical record. The additional payment described below and in the CMS links below applies if the only service provided during the home visit is administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

This temporary expansion of COVID-19 vaccine coverage in the home for eligible patients is effective:

- June 8, 2021, for patients with Medicare coverage
- July 1, 2021, for patients with Blue Cross and Blue Care Network commercial coverage

This expansion is in place until further notice.

Here's what you need to know.

For eligible patients with commercial coverage:

Follow these guidelines for patients with Blue Cross or Blue Care Network commercial coverage.

- **Contact us to enroll** - Home health care agencies that are interested in administering the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible commercial members in their homes need to contact Provider Enrollment and Data Management at 1-800-822-2761 to enroll for this expanded service. You'll receive notification when you can begin providing this service.
- **Submit professional claims using standard vaccine administration codes plus M0201** - Once you're approved to provide this service, home health care agencies will need to submit professional claims using standard COVID-19 vaccine administration codes for dates of service July 1, 2021, and after. In addition, home health care agencies approved for this service should include HCPCS Level II code M0201 to receive additional payment in recognition of the cost agencies will incur for traveling to the patient's home. Watch for a web-DENIS alert for the reimbursement amount for M0201.

For M0201 to be payable, these requirements must be met:

- The service is provided to a patient that meets the above requirements
- The provider documents justification for the service in the patient's record
- The only service provided was COVID-19 vaccine administration
- The service is administered in a home location (see [Medicare Payment for COVID-19 Vaccination Administration in the Home](#)* for more information)
- The code is reported only once per individual home per date of service

The COVID-19 vaccine administration codes are available on our COVID-19 webpages within our provider portal or on our public website at bcbsm.com/coronavirus. Refer to *COVID-19 vaccine information for providers* and *COVID-19 vaccine billing information at a glance*.

For eligible patients with Medicare primary or Medicare Advantage coverage:

Follow CMS guidelines for patients with Medicare Advantage coverage (Medicare Plus BlueSM and BCN AdvantageSM) and coverage with Medicare primary. More information is available at these links:

- [MLN Connects® special edition: Biden Administration Continues Efforts to Increase Vaccinations by Bolstering Payments for At-Home COVID-19 Vaccinations for Medicare Beneficiaries](#)*
- [Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment webpage](#)*
- [Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration](#)*

*Clicking this link means you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're required to let you know we're not responsible for its content.