



Effective September 1, 2025, NYRx, the New York State Medicaid pharmacy program is providing coverage for the 2025-2026 formulations of the COVID-19 vaccine.

In accordance with the Executive Order #52 signed by Governor Hochul and the guidance issued by the Commissioner of Health, pharmacists **effective September 5, 2025**, through October 5, 2025, or any subsequent extensions, are authorized to order patient-specific orders for COVID-19 vaccination for patients aged 3 and older for off-label use of the COVID-19 vaccine. See Advisory Immunization Notification titled *2025-2026 COVID-19 Guidance for Pharmacists* located at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-guidance-repository>. Additionally, the Commissioner authorized Standing Orders for the COVID-19 vaccines for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved uses, see the details for each found here: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/standing_orders.htm.

NYRx, Medicaid Pharmacy Program Pharmacists as Immunizers Fact Sheet

(Updated October 2025 – Updates are **highlighted**)

In accordance with New York State (NYS) Education law, pharmacists certified to administer immunizations are authorized to administer to patients 18 years of age and older, as recommended by professional organizations. The following vaccines can be obtained by NYS Medicaid members, 18 years of age and older:

- COVID-19 (3 years of age and older)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Herpes zoster (shingles)
- Human papillomavirus
- Influenza (2 years of age and older)
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Meningococcal
- Pneumococcal
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis
- Varicella
- Other vaccines as recommended by the Commissioner

Billing Vaccines to NYRx

Pharmacies will enter the appropriate value in the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) D.0 claim format pursuant to the billing type of either National Drug Code (NDC) or procedure code is used. Please refer to the tables below for billing detail. Please note, non-Vaccines for Children (VFC) enrolled providers administering COVID-19 vaccines to persons younger than 19 years of age must bill by procedure code.

Table 1: Vaccine billing for persons 19 years of age and older.

NCPDP D.0 Claim Segment Field	NDC Billing Value (Preferred Method)	Procedure Billing Value (Required method for COVID-19 claims for non-Vaccine for Children (VFC) enrolled providers)
436-E1 (Product/Service ID Qualifier)	"03"	"09"
407-D7 (Product/Service ID)	NDC of vaccine administered*	Procedure code**
442-E7 (Quantity Dispensed)	Numeric Volume	"1" or more for multiple vaccines on same day
405-D5 (Day Supply)	"1"	"1"
411-DB (Prescriber ID)	Prescriber or Pharmacy NPI***	Prescriber or Pharmacy NPI***
444-E9 (Pharmacist ID)	Pharmacist NPI	Pharmacist NPI
409-D9 (Ingredient Cost Submitted)	Actual Acquisition Cost	Actual Acquisition Cost
423-DN (Basis of Cost Determination)	Any applicable value	Not applicable

*Vaccine administration fee is included in the reimbursement when billing vaccine as an NDC.

**Pharmacies billing by procedure code will submit either the vaccine or administration procedure code value

***Dependent on if the vaccine is ordered by a pharmacist or via Patient-Specific/Standing Order

Table 2: Vaccine billing for persons younger than 19 years of age.

Billing for Members <i>younger than 19 years of age</i>		NCPDP D.0 Claim Segment Field	NDC Billing Value (Preferred Method)	Procedure Billing Value
Any vaccine other than COVID-19	VFC enrolled provider*	409-D9 (Ingredient Cost Submitted)	\$0*	\$0
		423-DN (Basis of Cost Determination)	"15" (Free product or no associated cost)*	N/A
	Non-VFC enrolled provider*	409-D9 (Ingredient Cost Submitted)	\$0*	\$0
		423-DN (Basis of Cost Determination)	Any applicable value	N/A
COVID-19	VFC enrolled provider	409-D9 (Ingredient Cost Submitted)	\$0	\$0
		423-DN (Basis of Cost Determination)	"15" (Free product or no associated cost)*	N/A
	Non-VFC enrolled provider	426-DQ (Usual and Customary Charge)	N/A	Actual Acquisition Cost
		423-DN (Basis of Cost Determination)	N/A	N/A

*Vaccines billed with Basis of Cost Determination code '15' for members greater than or equal to 19 years of age will be denied for edit 02357, returning NCPDP response message "66: Patient Age Exceeds Maximum." Only VFC-eligible vaccines may be billed with Basis of Cost Determination code '15.' Ineligible vaccines will be denied for claim edit 02358, returning NCPDP response message "818: Medication Administration Not Covered, Plan Benefit Exclusion."

Please see the [NYS Medicaid Pharmacy Manual Policy Guidelines](#) document for further guidance on origin code and serial number. Enter a value of "5" in field 419-DJ (Prescription Origin Code) and a value of "99999999" in field 454-EK (Scheduled Prescription ID Number) for Standing Order or Pharmacist ordered COVID-19 vaccines.

NCPDP D.0 Companion Guide can be found [here](#).

Billing by NDC (*Preferred*, except for non-VFC enrolled providers submitting claims for COVID-19 vaccinations to VFC-eligible persons, see Billing by Procedure Code section below)

- ✓ **NDC billing is the preferred method for billing vaccines**, as first detailed in the NDC billing guidance titled, *Reminder: NYRx, Medicaid Pharmacy Program Vaccine Billing Guidance*, found in Pharmacy Provider Communications here: https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Pharmacy/PDFS/Vaccine_Billing_Guidance_-_10-29-24.pdf.
- ✓ Vaccine NDCs are found on the Medicaid Pharmacy List of Reimbursable Drugs here: <https://www.emedny.org/info/formfile.aspx>.
- ✓ The administration fee is *automatically* included in the reimbursement when billing the vaccine NDC.
- ✓ See table above for fields and values.
- ✓ **Billing for Immunizations for Members younger than 19 Years of Age:**

There is no reimbursement for the cost of the vaccine for individuals younger than 19 years of age. Vaccines for individuals younger than 19 years of age are provided to Medicaid members free of charge by the VFC program.

Billing by Procedure Codes

- ✓ **Pharmacies should not submit any procedure code claim for vaccine or administration fee when billing a vaccine administration by NDC.**
- ✓ **Procedure code billing is required for correct reimbursement for non-VFC providers administering COVID-19 vaccines for members under the age of 19.**
- ✓ Procedure code billing is an *alternative* method of billing until further notice for any vaccine available for administration at a pharmacy. The full list of vaccine and administration procedure codes can be found in the manual titled, *Physician Medicine, Drugs and Drug Administration Procedure Codes*, under section 6.4 Vaccines, Toxoids: https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Physician/PDFS/Physician_Procedure_Codes_Sect2.pdf.
- ✓ Consistent with Medicaid immunization policy, pharmacies will bill the administration fee and, when applicable, acquisition cost of the vaccine using the appropriate procedure codes.
- ✓ See table above for fields and values.

Billing for Immunizations of Members 19 Years of Age and Older by procedure code:

For administration of multiple vaccines on the same date to members 19 years of age and older, if billing by procedure code enter "**90471**" should be used for administration of the first vaccine and "**90472**" for administration of **any** other vaccines administered on that day. One line should be billed for "**90472**" indicating the additional number of vaccines administered. Insert a quantity of "1" or "2" in the Field 442-E7 (Quantity Dispensed).

Billing for Immunizations for Members younger than 19 Years of Age by procedure code:

For **VFC-eligible vaccines**, whether enrolled in the VFC Program or not, the pharmacy would submit the appropriate vaccine procedure code(s) with a cost of \$0.00, then submit procedure code **"90460"** (administration of free vaccine) for administration of first or subsequent doses. A system edit will ensure that, when there is an incoming claim for the administrative fee (procedure code **"90460"**), there is also a claim in history for a VFC-eligible vaccine procedure code, reimbursed at \$0.00. If no history claim is found, then the claim will be denied for the edit 02291.

For administration of two vaccines on the same date to members younger than 19 years of age, procedure code **"90460"** should be used with a quantity of **"2"** in Field 442-E7 (Quantity Dispensed).

For NCPDP claims transactions that are rejected for edit 02291, the corresponding Medicaid Eligibility Verification System (MEVS) Reject Reason code **"738"** will be returned *"History Not Found for Administrative Vaccine Claim"* and NCPDP Reject code **"85"** *"Claim Not Processed."*

The following conditions apply to vaccine claims:

- Only Medicaid-enrolled pharmacies will receive reimbursement for immunization services. Services must be provided and documented in accordance with state laws and regulations, and Medicaid policies, including but not limited to the reporting of all immunizations administered to persons less than 19 years of age to either the State Department of Health (DOH), using the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), or to the New York Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). Additional information can be found [here](#).
- **NYS Medicaid is always the payor of last resort; federal regulations require that all other available resources be used before NYS Medicaid considers payment.** Pharmacies must coordinate benefits per the [April 2025 Medicaid Update](#) article titled, *Pharmacy Reminder: Coordination of Benefits Processing Instruction for New York State Medicaid*.
- Dual-eligible members will continue to access immunization services through Medicare.
- Vaccines administered to NYRx and Medicaid Managed Care members residing in a residential health care facility also known as a Long-Term Care Facility (LTC) or an Assisted Living Program (ALP) are the responsibility of the facility. Pharmacies may identify members who reside in either an enrolled residential healthcare facility when the Restriction/Exception (R/E) code of **"NH"** or **"AL"**, respectively, is returned in the eMedNY eligibility verification response. Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) enrollees who reside in a LTC or ALP may alternatively be identified by an R/E code of **"N1"** [Regular Nursing home (NH)], **"N2"** (AIDS NH), **"N3"** (Neuro-Behavioral NH), **"N4"** (Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) NH], **"N5"** (Ventilator Dependent), **"N6"** (NH-any type), or **"AL"** (Assisted Living). Information on how to perform a eligibility verification transaction can be found in the eMedNY *Medicaid Eligibility Verification System (MEVS) and Dispensing Validation System (DVS) Provider Manual*, located at: [https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/5010/MEVS/MEVS_DVS_Provider_Manual_\(5010\).pdf](https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/5010/MEVS/MEVS_DVS_Provider_Manual_(5010).pdf).
- Eligible Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) enrollees will access immunization services through NYRx at the pharmacy.
- Reimbursement for these vaccines may be based on a patient-specific order or non-patient specific order from a physician or a nurse practitioner. These orders must be kept

on file at the pharmacy. For either a patient or non-patient specific order, the ordering prescriber's National Provider Identification (NPI) is required on the claim for the claim to be paid. Please see the [NYS Medicaid Pharmacy Manual Policy Guidelines](#) section titled, *Non-Patient Specific Drug Orders* for guidance related to processing these orders.

- Note: Through December 31, 2029, COVID-19 vaccines may continue to be ordered by a pharmacist in accordance with the extension of the [PREP Act](#).
- VFC eligible vaccines are provided to Medicaid members younger than 19 years of age free of charge by the VFC program.
 - **Pharmacies that bill Medicaid for the cost of vaccines that are obtained via the VFC Program are subject to recovery of payment.**
- Reimbursement for the cost of the vaccine for individuals 19 years of age and older **and COVID-19 vaccine for any age** will be made at no more than the **actual** acquisition cost to the pharmacy.
- No dispensing fee or member co-payment applies.
- **Until further notice or December 31, 2029, non-VFC enrolled pharmacies may continue to bill the COVID-19 vaccine with the actual acquisition cost of the vaccine.**
- **There are claims processing limitations in billing the COVID-19 vaccine for VFC eligible members by a non-VFC enrolled pharmacy.**
 - **Non-VFC enrolled pharmacies must bill COVID-19 by procedure code.**
 - **Non-VFC enrolled pharmacies must bill COVID-19 actual acquisition cost.**See section above titled, *Billing by Procedure Codes*, for guidance on billing VFC eligible COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Pharmacies wishing to administer VFC-available vaccines to Medicaid members younger than 19 years of age may enroll in the VFC program.
 - Pharmacies immunizing patients 18 years of age with pneumococcal, meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, measles, mumps, and rubella, and varicella vaccines **may not** bill Medicaid for the costs of these vaccines. Patients younger than 19 years of age, with Medicaid, are VFC-eligible and may receive these vaccines through a VFC healthcare practice or clinic.
 - Pharmacies that are **not** enrolled in the VFC program may choose to provide vaccines for members younger than 19 years of age, at no charge to the member or Medicaid program, and will be reimbursed an administration fee of \$25.10 by NYS Medicaid.
 - Additional information on the VFC Program, based on location, can be found at the following links:
 - [New York City](#)
 - [Outside New York City](#)

Billing Instructions for MMC:

NYRx should be billed for any vaccine administered by a pharmacy provider. For non-pharmacy providers, individual MMC plans should be contacted for their specific reimbursement and billing guidance. Plan information can be found by visiting

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_transition/mcp/index.htm.

Questions and Additional Information:

- [New York State Department of Health Press Releases webpage](#) for vaccine-related announcements.
- New York State Education Department Office of the Professions [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) webpage](#) for Administration of Immunizations.
- Additional information on influenza is available on the NYS DOH web page, titled [What You Should Know About the Flu](#).
- For fee schedules and procedure codes see "Fee Schedules: Drugs" and "Procedure Codes: Medicine and Drugs" found under section titled, Procedure Codes & Fee Schedules on the eMedNY Physician Manual page: <https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Physician/>.
- NY State Standing Orders are found here: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/standing_orders.htm.
- COVID-19 Guidance Repository, which includes recommendations and State issued Advisories, are found here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-guidance-repository>.
- NYRx billing and claim questions should be directed to the eMedNY Call Center at (800) 343-9000.
- NYRx Pharmacy coverage and policy questions should be directed to the Medicaid Pharmacy Policy Unit by telephone at (518) 486-3209 or by email at NYRx@health.ny.gov.