



Maryland Medical Assistance Program Pharmacy Provider Guidance Issued October 16, 2020

The Maryland Department of Health Medicaid Program (“the Department”) is issuing this clarifying guidance to address questions regarding how pharmacists should administer vaccines and mandatory reporting to Immunet.

The Secretary of the Health and Human Services declared a federal health emergency effective January 27, 2020. The Secretary renewed the declaration on April 26, 2020, July 25, 2020, and effective October 23, 2020. The federal health emergency is scheduled to expire on January 21, 2021.

The Secretary amended the federal health emergency declaration on August 24, 2020. The amendment authorized State-licensed pharmacists to order and administer, and authorized pharmacy interns (who are licensed or registered by their State board of pharmacy and acting under the supervision of a State-licensed pharmacist) to administer, any vaccine that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends be provided to persons ages **three (3) through eighteen (18)** according to ACIP’s standard immunization schedule (ACIP-recommended vaccines).

Typically, in Maryland, pharmacists are able to administer a vaccine to persons ages nine (9) through eighteen (18).

Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) Program

Currently under the federal health emergency declaration, pharmacists are permitted by license to administer vaccines to children aged three (3) and above. The Maryland Medicaid FFS program (“the Program”) will reimburse pharmacies for the administration of certain vaccines according to its existing reimbursement structure. Specifically, the Program will reimburse pharmacies for the vaccine’s ingredient cost and the professional dispensing fee.

At this time, for administrative reasons, the Maryland Department of Health Center for Immunization is not able to enroll pharmacies to receive no-cost vaccines offered through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. It is anticipated that the Department will have the administrative resources to enroll pharmacies in the federal VFC Program beginning in April 2021, which would provide no-cost vaccines for VFC eligible children. Until pharmacies are enrolled in the VFC Program, the Program will continue to reimburse pharmacies using the ingredient cost and professional dispensing fee structure.

Medicaid HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations

Effective November 1, 2020, the Maryland HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will comply with the amended federal health declaration and will reimburse pharmacies for the administration of certain vaccines according to their existing reimbursement structure. Please visit following website for list of MCO’s formulary at http://www.marylandmedicaidpharmacyinformation.com/formulary_navigator.htm

Mandatory Reporting to ImmuNet

Since October 1, 2019, Maryland Statute Health General 18-109 mandates that all vaccines administered in the State of Maryland be reported to ImmunNet, regardless of patient opt-out status in Immunet. These requirements include vaccines administered by pharmacies. The ImmunNet website, [Immunet Enrollment](#), provides guidance on the mandatory reporting process.

Please remember to check Immunet before administering a vaccine to ensure that the child or adult has not already received the vaccine through another provider.