

PHARMACY FACTS

Program Updates from Louisiana Medicaid

September 15, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Update: FDA Authorizes Emergency Use of Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Booster

On September 23, 2022, with an effective date of August 31, 2022, in continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana Medicaid's Fee-for-Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and the managed care organizations (MCO) are covering the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster, with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine boosters contain components of the original virus strain and the Omicron variant. The bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are available as Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent and Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use as a single dose booster for individuals 18 years of age and older. The Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use as a single dose booster for individuals 12 years of age and older.

The authorized and updated COVID-19 bivalent boosters are designed to give broad protection against COVID-19 and better protection against the Omicron variant. The federal government covers the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, Louisiana Medicaid will reimburse enrolled pharmacies the **administration fee only**. Coverage for the Pfizer, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), and Moderna COVID-19 primary vaccine series will continue.

Influenza Season 2022-2023: Influenza Vaccine Coverage

Effective September 15, 2022, Louisiana Medicaid's Fee-for-Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and the managed care organizations (MCO), implemented coverage of the flu vaccine for the 2022-2023 Influenza Season. Influenza vaccination is beneficial in reducing illness and complications due to flu illness, and it decrease the severity of flu-like symptoms and reduces flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.

Enrolled pharmacies will be reimbursed for the influenza vaccines and administration of the vaccines when given to Medicaid recipients, who are 19 years of age and older when the administering pharmacist is an enrolled Medicaid provider. The cost of the vaccine will not be reimbursed for recipients under the age of 19, only the administration fee will be reimbursed, as these vaccines are available through the Louisiana Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy rules and regulations allow a vaccinating pharmacist to administer the influenza vaccine to individuals seven years of age and older.

Medicaid to host provider webinars about approaching Provider Enrollment Deadline for claims reimbursement

Louisiana Medicaid is hosting a series of provider webinars regarding the upcoming Provider Enrollment deadline. All providers that file claims with Louisiana Medicaid are invited to attend.

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The information shared will be the same for all webinars, focusing on how to complete enrollment by the September 30, 2022 deadline. There is no registration for the webinar, but there is limited capacity of 1,000 participants for each webinar. If that capacity is reached, no additional participants will be able to join.

There will be an opportunity for questions and answers during the webinar. Providers with questions are reminded to consult Informational Bulletin 22-4 which provides additional information on Medicaid Provider Enrollment and provider resources for questions.

The webinar will be made available online for those unable to attend.

Webinars are scheduled for the following dates and times:

- September 19, 2022
 - o 8 – 9 a.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83581336939>
 - o 3:30- 4:30 p.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85658698127>
- September 20, 2022
 - o 10 – 11 a.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86358324913>
- September 21, 2022
 - o 9 – 10 a.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86840309288>
 - o 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84554820513>
- September 22, 2022
 - o 12 – 1 p.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86317575662>
- September 23, 2022
 - o 9 – 10 a.m. Webinar Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85758585379>

Providers that file claims with Louisiana Medicaid must enroll in Medicaid's new web-based provider enrollment portal. Federal laws enforced by CMS, including the Affordable Care Act and the 21st Century Cures Act, require states to screen and enroll all providers.

The enrollment portal must be used by Medicaid providers. This includes fee-for-service, managed care organization (MCO) only, Dental Benefits Program Manager (DBPM), and Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) providers.

The deadline to submit an enrollment application is September 30. Providers must allow several weeks from the time of the application submission to the time that enrollment is considered complete.

The September 30 deadline applies to:

- Providers enrolled with Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid before December 31, 2021.
- Providers enrolled with an MCO, DBPM, or Magellan before March 31, 2022.

If you are in this situation and have not completed enrollment by the deadline, your claims will be denied beginning January 1, 2023.

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If providers are unsure of their enrollment status, a Provider Portal Enrollment Lookup Tool is available at www.lamedicaid.com. Data elements that may be used for lookup include NPI, provider name, provider type, specialty, address, city and state, or zip code. The results given will show the provider's status as either enrollment complete, action required or currently in process by Gainwell. Providers that are not shown in the results are not required to enroll at this time. Invitation letters for those providers will be sent at a later date. The Lookup Tool is updated daily and the results may be downloaded.

If your information has not been processed within 15 business days, please contact Gainwell Technologies by emailing louisianaprovenroll@gainwelltechnologies.com or contacting 1-833-641-2140 for a status update on enrollment and any next steps needed to complete the process.