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Dear WellFirst Health Provider:

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to providing high-quality care to our members during this unprecedented public health emergency. We will release future notifications to inform you of updated WellFirst Health COVID-19 information when it is available.

The U.S. Departments of Labor, Treasury, and Health and Human Services (the Tri-agencies) released an [Interim Final Rule \(IFC\) with Comment Period](#) that establishes important coverage requirements for an eventual COVID-19 vaccine. Based on the IFC, this COVID-19 provider notification contains information regarding:

- How to enroll in the state's immunization program to receive and administer future supply of the COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government.
- COVID-19 vaccine and administration including new Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for vaccines anticipated to become available soon based on current clinical trials, member cost share waiver, claims, reimbursement, and Medicare Advantage.

Providers are strongly encouraged to read the IFC to fully determine how the rule affects them.

Information in this notification applies to the following WellFirst Health products: SSM Health Employee Health Plan Administrative Services Only (ASO) in Illinois, Missouri, and Oklahoma and WellFirst Health ACA Individual Plans in Missouri. Effective January 1, 2021, this information will also apply to WellFirst Health ACA Individual Plans in Illinois and WellFirst Health Medicare Advantage Plans in Illinois and Missouri.

### **Federal Vaccine Distribution Program**

To receive and administer COVID-19 vaccines and supplies, organizations or individual providers must enroll in a federal vaccine distribution program which is being coordinated through state immunization programs. (The exceptions to this enrollment requirement are providers who are part of a national chain that registered directly with the Centers for Disease Control [CDC]). COVID-19 vaccines and ancillary supplies will only be available through federal vaccine distribution, not through private purchase.

*Note:* We recommend that providers check with their organization before enrolling as some organizations may choose to register as an organization in lieu of having their individual providers enroll.

The federal government will procure and distribute the vaccine at no cost to enrolled organization and providers. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the CDC will be issuing future guidance on vaccine distribution based on available supply and priority populations.

### **Illinois COVID-19 Vaccine Program Enrollment**

The Illinois Department of Public Health plans to use the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Registry Exchange (I-CARE), its web-based immunization record-sharing application, for provider enrollment. Providers can find more information about I-CARE including provider agreements and registration information on the [Illinois Department of Health I-Care web page](#).

Additionally, an October 2020 draft version of the Mass Vaccination Planning Guide is available publicly on the Illinois Department of Health's [SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Guide web page](#). Providers may wish to check the web page regularly for new resources and updates.

The Illinois Department of Public Health Customer Service number is 217-782-4977.

### **Missouri COVID-19 Vaccinator Enrollment Program**

The [Missouri COVID-19 Vaccinator Enrollment program](#) is now open for enrollment to providers who plan to administer COVID-19 vaccines. For this enrollment process, Missouri is using its Immunization Information System, ShowMeVax.

If providers have questions about the enrollment process, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services can be contacted at [c19vaxenroll@health.mo.gov](mailto:c19vaxenroll@health.mo.gov).

### **Oklahoma COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Enrollment**

The Oklahoma State Department of Health requires providers to begin enrollment by filling in and signing two sections of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement on the [Oklahoma State Department of Health Provider Enrollment web page](#). In addition to the direct link to download the enrollment form, providers also can find more information about the complete enrollment process on this web page.

Providers with questions about enrollment may contact the Immunization Service team at [Immunize@health.ok.gov](mailto:Immunize@health.ok.gov) or 405-271-4073.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine and Administration**

Based on current clinical trials, two vaccines are anticipated to become available in the near future, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, if issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) have developed a specific CPT code for each vaccine product and each vaccine administration, as shown in the grid on the following page.

CPT Vaccine Codes		CPT Vaccine Administration Codes		NDC 10/NDC 11 (Vial)	Vaccine Name	Dosing Interval
91300	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted, for intramuscular use	0001A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; first dose	59267-1000-1	Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	21 days
		0002A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; second dose	59267-1000-01		
91301	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use	0011A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; first dose	80777-273-10	Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	28 days
		0012A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; second dose	80777-0273-10		

Once FDA-authorization or approval is issued, we will communicate formalized effective date and covered COVID-19 vaccine brand(s) in a subsequent COVID-19 notification. This future notification will be emailed to providers who have signed up through their Provider Portal account to receive electronic communications from WellFirst Health. It also will be published on our [COVID-19 provider information web page](#).

### **Member Cost Share Waiver**

The vaccine itself will be paid for through funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The administration of the vaccine for enrolled members will be paid for by WellFirst Health. In adherence to IFC provisions, WellFirst Health will cover FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine administration without member cost share when rendered by either an in-network or out-of-network provider during the public health emergency. The cost share waiver will include the administration of a single-dose vaccine or a two-dose series, if a vaccine requires a second dose.

Per the CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) and the AMA CPT Assistant, an evaluation and management (E/M) code may not be reported in addition to the vaccine administration. Furthermore, the AMA's CPT Assistant states that "the administration codes for COVID-19 vaccines include vaccine risk/benefit counseling, when performed." If the E/M is significant, and separately identifiable, it may be reported with modifier 25. However, if the E/M is unrelated to administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, cost share will not be waived.

Providers enrolled in their state's COVID-19 immunization program have contractually agreed to administer a COVID-19 vaccine regardless of an individual's ability to pay or coverage status and may not seek any reimbursement from a vaccine recipient through cost sharing or balance billing.

### **Authorization**

Prior authorization will **not** be required for COVID-19 vaccine administration.

### **Claims**

Because the federal government will procure and distribute the vaccine once available, claims for the **vaccine product** itself should **not** be sent to WellFirst Health Plan.

Claims for the **vaccine administration** should be sent to WellFirst Health, except for most Medicare Advantage claims as detailed in the "Medicare Advantage" section below.

To avoid negative claims impact, it is important that claims for vaccine administration have the accurate administration code for the vaccine product and the dose (first or second), as shown in the above grid.

### **Reimbursement**

Fee schedules will be updated in the future to reflect reimbursement rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration. We will notify providers in a future COVID-19 communication when fee schedule updates are completed.

### **Medicare Advantage**

CMS previously announced that for calendar years 2020 and 2021 Medicare payment for the COVID-19 vaccine and its administration for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans will be made through the original fee-for-service Medicare program. Therefore, providers must submit Medicare Advantage claims for the vaccine *and* administration for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage in 2020 and 2021 directly to CMS. The exception is for claims for Medicare Cost plans which must be submitted to the health plan for vaccine administration.

Per CMS, enrolled beneficiaries will pay nothing for COVID-19 shots — no copayment or coinsurance and no deductible. Refer to CMS guidance for billing at [Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration](#) and payment at [Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment](#).

Once the FDA has authorized or approved a COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccine and its administration will be added to the list of preventive vaccines that are covered under Medicare Part B without coinsurance or deductible.

**Additional Health Plan Information**

For current COVID-19 health plan information, refer to our [COVID-19 provider information web page](#) link located at the top of all [wellfirstbenefits.com](http://wellfirstbenefits.com) web pages. Providers are encouraged to check our website regularly for new and updated information.

Please contact a WellFirst Health Provider Network Consultant at 314-994-6262 or [ProviderRelations@wellfirstbenefits.com](mailto:ProviderRelations@wellfirstbenefits.com) with any questions.

Thank you again for your commitment to our members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Lorenzen', written in a cursive style.

Loretta A. Lorenzen  
Vice President- Network Management & Contracting