

**An Important Message from**  
**The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**  
**Change in Age Limit for Pharmacist-Administered**  
**Influenza Vaccines**

**Background:**

Currently, MCOs are required to reimburse pharmacies for influenza vaccines administered to members aged seven years and older in a pharmacy setting. The MCOs must cover all influenza vaccines available on the Medicaid and CHIP formularies. The MCOs are responsible for reimbursing pharmacies for the ingredient cost and administration fee for each flu vaccine claim processed.

Vaccines qualify as preventative care, and MCOs must not assess prescription copays on pharmacy claims for vaccines for any member, including CHIP members.

**Key Details:**

The federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) authorizes pharmacists to order and administer influenza vaccines to patients aged three and older.

MCOs will pharmacies for influenza vaccines available on the Medicaid and CHIP formularies administered to members aged three and older in a pharmacy setting starting Dec. 17, 2021.

MCOs must direct pharmacies to use the same claim details as HHSC previously outlined:

1. Per National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) guidance, pharmacies must submit the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the pharmacist administering the vaccine or supervising pharmacist in the "Prescriber ID" field (411-DB).
2. The pharmacy must submit the NPI of the supervising pharmacist if the pharmacy staff administering the vaccine does not have an NPI (e.g., interns).

To bypass edits validating Medicaid enrollment, fee-for-service requires pharmacies to submit claims with the value of "05" in the "Prescription Origin Code" field (419-DJ). For UnitedHealthcare, Pharmacists administering the influenza vaccine do not have to be enrolled with Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) or Vendor Drug Program (VDP) but must follow the Texas State Board of Pharmacy rules related to certification to immunize and vaccinate. However, the pharmacy must be enrolled with TMHP, VDP and OptumRx. The pharmacy must bill using the pharmacy's Medicaid enrolled NPI.

Pharmacies should continue to report to ImmTrac2 ([immtrac.dshs.texas.gov](http://immtrac.dshs.texas.gov)) and proactively collaborate with primary care medical homes.