



Policy: MA.6112  
Title: **Access to Part D Vaccines**  
Department: Medical Management  
Section: Pharmacy Management

*CEO Approval: /s/ Michael Hunn 12/16/2024*

Effective Date: 01/01/2006

Revised Date: 12/01/2024

Applicable to: ☐ Medi-Cal  
☒ OneCare  
☐ PACE  
☐ Administrative

## **I. PURPOSE**

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This policy defines the process for the provision of covered Part D Vaccines dispensed and administered to CalOptima Health Members.

## **II. POLICY**

- A. CalOptima Health shall ensure that a Member has adequate access to covered Part D Vaccines dispensed and administered in a Physician's office.
- B. A covered Part D Vaccine shall include vaccines not available for reimbursement under Medicare Parts A or B and when administration is reasonable and necessary for the prevention of illness.
- C. The following vaccines shall be excluded from Part D and covered under Medicare Part B:
  - 1. Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine;
  - 2. Hepatitis B vaccine for individuals at high or intermediate risk;
    - a. High risk groups currently identified include:
      - i. Individuals with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD);
      - ii. Individuals with diabetes;
      - iii. Individuals with hemophilia who received Factor VIII or IX concentrates;
      - iv. Clients of institutions for the mentally handicapped;
      - v. Persons who live in the same household as a hepatitis B Virus (HBV) carrier;
      - vi. Homosexual men; and
      - vii. Illicit injectable drug abusers.
    - b. Intermediate risk groups include:

- i. Staff in institutions for the mentally handicapped; and
  - ii. Workers in health care professions who have frequent contact with blood or blood-derived body fluids during routine work.
- 3. COVID-19
- 4. Influenza virus vaccine; and
- 5. Other vaccines (e.g., tetanus toxoid) when directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition.
- D. A CalOptima Health Network Pharmacy may provide covered Part D Vaccines directly to a Physician office.
- E. A CalOptima Health Member may receive covered Part D Vaccines directly from a Physician office.
- F. A CalOptima Health Member may receive covered Part D Vaccines directly from a Network Pharmacy.
- G. Reimbursement for covered Part D Vaccines shall include vaccine administration costs, dispensing fee (if applicable), and vaccine ingredient cost.
- H. Members shall be responsible for the co-payment associated with the covered Part D Vaccine.

### **III. PROCEDURE**

- A. In-Network Pharmacy Distribution of Covered Part D Vaccines
  - 1. A Member may obtain a prescription from a prescribing Provider and bring it to a CalOptima Health pharmacy for administration.
  - 2. A Member may obtain a covered Part D Vaccine from a Network Pharmacy and bring it to a Physician or other prescribing Provider for administration.
  - 3. A CalOptima Health pharmacy may ship the prescribed drug or vaccine directly to the Physician and bill CalOptima Health for the covered Part D Vaccine; CalOptima Health will not be responsible for the cost of shipping.
- B. Prescriber and Out-of-Network Pharmacy Distribution of Covered Part D Vaccines
  - 1. A Physician or other prescribing Provider may administer a covered Part D Vaccine and bill CalOptima Health on a CMS-1500 form.
  - 2. CalOptima Health Pharmacy Department will review the submitted form and Member pharmacy claims history:
    - a. To apply utilization management edits, such as ensuring the absence of duplicate claims for the same vaccine; and

- b. To ensure its administration is consistent with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.
- 3. CalOptima Health Pharmacy Department will coordinate with the Claims Department to provide payment to the Provider for the ingredient cost of the vaccine, plus administration fee.
- 4. CalOptima Health may authorize Member reimbursement for payment of covered Part D Vaccines:
  - a. If a Member pays for a covered Part D Vaccine in the Physician's office, the Member shall contact the CalOptima Health Customer Service Department and provide record of payment.
  - b. The CalOptima Health Customer Service Department shall coordinate an evaluation of a Member's reimbursement request with the Pharmacy Management Department.
  - c. CalOptima Health shall refund a Member for the approved medications and administration of the vaccine less any applicable cost sharing, consistent with CalOptima Health Policy MA.6101: Medicare Part D Coverage Determination.
- C. Covered Part D Vaccine claims shall be processed by the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) for inclusion in Prescription Drug Event (PDE) records.

#### **IV. ATTACHMENT(S)**

Not Applicable

#### **V. REFERENCE(S)**

- A. CalOptima Health Contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicare Advantage
- B. CalOptima Health Policy MA.6101: Medicare Part D Coverage Determination
- C. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Part D Application 2015
- D. "Increasing Part D Vaccine Access," Health Plan Management System (HPMS) Memorandum, Issued 05/08/2006
- E. Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, Chapter 6: Revised 01/15/2016
- F. MLN Matters® Number: SE0727 Revised 01/14/2013
- G. "Part D Vaccines," Health Plan Management System (HPMS) Memorandum, Issued 12/01/2006
- H. Medicare.gov Your Medicare Coverage Hepatitis B Shots; Accessed 07/18/2022

#### **VI. REGULATORY AGENCY APPROVAL(S)**

None to Date

#### **VII. BOARD ACTION(S)**

None to Date

## VIII. REVISION HISTORY

Action	Date	Policy	Policy Title	Program(s)
Effective	03/01/2007	MA.6112	Access to Part D Drugs and Vaccines in the Physician Office	OneCare
Revised	09/01/2008	MA.6112	Access to Part D Drugs and Vaccines in the Physician Office	OneCare
Revised	06/01/2015	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	11/01/2016	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	11/01/2017	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	10/01/2018	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	11/01/2019	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	07/01/2020	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	10/01/2021	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare OneCare Connect
Revised	12/31/2022	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare
Revised	09/01/2023	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare
Revised	12/01/2024	MA.6112	Access to Part D Vaccines	OneCare

## IX. GLOSSARY

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)	That stage of kidney impairment that appears irreversible and permanent and requires a regular course of dialysis or kidney transplantation to maintain life. End Stage Renal Disease is classified as Stage V of Chronic Kidney Disease. This stage exists when renal function, as measured by glomerular filtration rate (GFR), is less than 15ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> and serum creatinine is greater than or equal to eight, unless the Member is diabetic, in which case serum creatinine is greater than or equal to six (6). Excretory, regulatory, and hormonal renal functions are severely impaired, and the Member cannot maintain homeostasis.
Medicare Part B Vaccines	Medicare Part B covered vaccines include Hepatitis B, Influenza virus, Pneumococcal, and other vaccines directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition.
Medicare Part D Vaccines	Medicare Part D vaccines are those not covered by Part B and used as reasonable and necessary to prevent illness.
Member	A beneficiary enrolled in a CalOptima Health program.
Network Pharmacy	For the purposes of this policy, refers to a licensed pharmacy that is under contract to provide covered Part D drugs and other pharmacy services CalOptima Health Members.
Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM)	An entity that provides pharmacy benefit management services, including contracting with a network of pharmacies; establishing payment levels for network pharmacies; negotiating rebate arrangements; developing and managing formularies, preferred drug lists, and prior authorization programs; maintaining patient compliance programs; performing drug utilization review; and operating disease management programs.
Primary Care Practitioner/Physician (PCP)	A Practitioner/Physician responsible for supervising, coordinating, and providing initial and primary care to Members and serves as the medical home for Members. The PCP is a general practitioner, internist, pediatrician, family practitioner, or obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN). For Members who are Seniors or Persons with Disabilities or eligible for the Whole Child Model, “Primary Care Practitioner” or “PCP” shall additionally mean any Specialty Care Provider who is a Participating Provider and is willing to perform the role of the PCP. A PCP may also be a Non-Physician Medical Practitioner (NMP) (e.g., Nurse Practitioner [NP], Nurse Midwife, Physician Assistant [PA]) authorized to provide primary care services under supervision of a Physician. For SPD or Whole Child Model beneficiaries, a PCP may also be a Specialty Care Provider or clinic.
Provider (Part D)	All contracted Providers including physicians, Non-physician Medical Practitioners, ancillary providers, and facilities or institutions who are licensed to furnish Covered Services.