


ISSUE DATE September 23, 2022	EFFECTIVE DATE September 23, 2022	NUMBER 01-22-12, 05-22-04, 08-22-12, 09-22-11, 10-22-04, 24-22-07, 26-22-01, 30-22-08, 31-22-12, 33-22-10
SUBJECT COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for Beneficiaries Under 21		BY  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISE-Enrollment.aspx>.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise providers that the Medical Assistance (MA) Program will cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits for beneficiaries under 21 when a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) vaccine is not administered.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, physician assistants, outpatient hospital-based clinics, independent medical/surgical clinics, home health agencies, ambulance providers, renal dialysis centers, psychiatric outpatient clinics, drug and alcohol outpatient clinics, and licensed pharmacies enrolled in the MA Program who may administer SARS-CoV-2 vaccines to MA beneficiaries in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) or managed care delivery systems. Providers rendering services to MA beneficiaries in the managed care delivery system should contact the appropriate managed care organization with any billing questions.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

There is an increasing urgency for people to get vaccinated against COVID-19 due to new variants that are rapidly spreading in the United States. The Omicron variant is one variant that has been identified as a “variant of concern” because it spreads faster than other

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>.

current COVID-19 variants. The Omicron variant has led to an increased number of children under 18 years of age being hospitalized. The best protection against the COVID-19 virus and its variants is the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines that are currently available.

Many parents, who are vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus themselves, are hesitant to get their children vaccinated. Vaccine counseling, provided separately from the actual delivery of a vaccine, can help address vaccine hesitancy by responding to parental concerns and misinformation, and allows parents to ask questions and receive information concerning vaccines from their providers.

Section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) requires state Medicaid programs to cover COVID-19 vaccine administration without cost sharing. CMS interprets the ARP references to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine to include COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits during which no SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is injected when these visits are covered for children under age 21 as part of the EPSDT benefit.

On December 2, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that state Medicaid programs must cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling visits to beneficiaries under age 21 and/or caregivers when a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is not administered (vaccine counseling only visits). <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-makes-100-federal-medicaid-matching-funds-available-state-expenditures>. On May 12, 2022, CMS issued a State Health Official Letter providing more guidance on stand-alone vaccine counseling for beneficiaries under age 21. <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho22002.pdf>.

Accordingly, the MA Program will cover, without cost-sharing, COVID-19 vaccine counseling provided to MA beneficiaries under the age of 21 and/or their parent/caregiver when a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is not administered.

PROCEDURE:

MA providers in both the FFS and managed care delivery systems may bill for COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits for MA beneficiaries under the age of 21 when provided by a qualified health professional who is authorized under state law to administer the SARS CoV-2 vaccine. The vaccine counseling may be provided to MA beneficiaries and/or their parent or caregiver as appropriate. Providers may bill for vaccine counseling when a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is not administered using the CPT code and modifier below.

Procedure Code and Modifier	Code Description	Fee
99401 (U2)	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	\$10.00

NOTE: Provider type 10, specialty 100 (physician assistant) is included because physician assistants can be listed as the rendering provider pursuant to MA Bulletin 01-22-05, 08-22-05,

09-22-04, 10-22-01, 31-22-05, entitled “Billing Procedure Update for Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.”

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/FORMS%20AND%20PUBS%20MAP/MAB2022010701.pdf>.

COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits may be provided in addition to another service. However, MA Providers may not bill COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits when the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is administered.

The MA Program recognizes the role that a parent/caregiver plays in making informed health care decisions for their child(ren). As such, COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits may be provided to MA beneficiaries under the age of 21 and/or their parent/caregiver, when a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is not administered and billed as a service to the MA beneficiary.

Additionally, COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits may be provided via telemedicine with the use of Place of Service 02. For further information on MA Program guidelines for telemedicine see MA Bulletin 99-21-06, titled, “Guidelines for the Delivery of Physical Health Services via Telemedicine” at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/FORMS%20AND%20PUBS%20MAP/99-21-06.pdf>.

For pharmacists providing COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits in MA FFS, the MA Program does not make direct payments to licensed pharmacists. Pharmacies may submit an 837 Professional (837P) claim to the MA Program for the provision of vaccine counseling only visits by the pharmacist using the procedure code as identified above. The billing and rendering provider for the administration fee claim should be the MA-enrolled pharmacy’s National Provider Identifier (NPI). An MA-enrolled prescriber NPI should be submitted in the referring provider field.

ATTACHMENT:

COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for MA Beneficiaries Under the Age of 21

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Department of Human Services
 Office of Medical Assistance Programs
 COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for MA Beneficiaries Under the Age of 21**

Procedure Code	Description	Provider Type	Specialty	Place of Service	Pricing Modifier	Info Modifier	MA Fee	Prior Auth	MA units	Limits
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	01	183	02, 22		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	05	050, 051	02, 12, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	08	082	02, 49		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	08	110	02, 49		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	08	184	02, 57		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	09	All	02, 11, 12, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	10	100	02, 11, 12, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	24	All	02, 11, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	24	240, 247	02, 12		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	26	260, 261	02, 12, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	30	300	02, 12, 65		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	31	All	02, 11, 12, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day

99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	33	335	02, 11, 12, 99		U2	\$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
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