



Professional Provider Report

A newsletter for professional providers and their staff members

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) is closely monitoring the details emerging around the long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the vaccine is now available in Kansas but is currently limited to healthcare workers and long-term care residents. It is anticipated that vaccine production will increase and be available to the general public by late spring or early summer. The vaccine will be provided at no cost to BCBSKS members.

Important COVID-19 Resources to Monitor

- To stay up to date and for more information on Kansas' COVID-19 response, please visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>. Here you can find the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan
- To become a vaccinator for the COVID-19 Vaccine, please visit <https://kanphix.kdhe.state.ks.us/KDHECDCCovidVaccineEnroll/>
- To help your patients stay up to date, direct them to our [Member COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Billing Information

Coding:

The government will be providing the vaccine and providers will only be able to bill the administration fee to insurance. Providers will need to bill appropriate CPT and diagnosis codes for the administration. Please see the chart below:

COVID-19 Administration Codes	0001A, 0002A, 0011A, 0012A
New COVID-19 Diagnosis codes	J12.82, M35.81, M35.89, Z11.52, Z20.822, Z86.16

For an expanded list of COVID related diagnosis codes, please see our [COVID-19 Service Spreadsheet](#) available on our website, www.bcbsks.com.

Provider and Pharmacy agreements:

To receive free supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine(s), pharmacies, retail clinics, providers, and any other site of care receiving and administering COVID-19 vaccines must sign an agreement with the U.S. government. Under the agreement, all registered and approved providers must vaccinate individuals regardless of whether they have health insurance coverage or what type of coverage they have. Providers are prohibited from balance billing or otherwise charging vaccine recipients. Following vaccination, vaccine recipients must be provided with emergency use authorization (EUA) Fact Sheets on the vaccine and vaccination cards. They are required to administer the vaccine in accordance with CDC and ACIP requirements, and must meet storage and



recordkeeping requirements – including recording the administration of the vaccine to patients in their own systems within 24 hours and reporting to public health data systems as soon as practical, and within 72 hours.

Issuer Coverage

Pursuant to a recently issued Interim Final Rule by CMS and the Departments of Labor and the Treasury, issuers of non-grandfathered group or individual health insurance coverage are required to provide coverage, without cost sharing, for in-network qualifying coronavirus preventive services, including a COVID-19 vaccine and its administration, and during

the COVID-19 PHE, from out-of-network providers as well.

Balance Billing Provisions

Providers that receive the COVID-19 vaccine free from the federal government are prohibited from seeking reimbursement from consumers for vaccine administration costs – whether as cost sharing or balance billing. BCBSKS is covering the cost of the administration fee for members. Providers will need to seek reimbursement for the fee for uninsured patients through the Provider Relief Fund .

Importance of Routine Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Routine vaccinations are an essential preventive care service for children, adolescents, and adults (including pregnant women) and should not be delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Providers are being asked to communicate the importance of maintaining or reinstate routine vaccinations to their patients. Routine vaccination prevents illnesses that lead to unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations and further strain the healthcare system.

All vaccines due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended CDC immunization schedules during that visit, unless a specific contraindication exists, to provide protection as soon as possible as well as minimize the number of healthcare visits needed to complete vaccination.

Additional Consideration for Influenza Vaccination

During the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing the overall burden of respiratory illnesses is important to protect vulnerable populations at risk for severe illness, the healthcare system, and other critical infrastructure. For the 2020-2021 influenza season, influenza vaccination will be paramount to reduce the impact of respiratory illnesses attributed to influenza in the population and resulting burdens on the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic. See the full CDC Interim Guidance for Routine and Influenza Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic [here](#).

Oxygen Saturations During Telehealth Visits

Many patients are turning to telehealth visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to keep everyone's health as our top priority, BCBSKS is allowing physicians to use a patient's oxygen saturations, taken with their personal pulse ox reader, to determine the best way to treat them.

If you have additional questions, contact your Professional Relations representative or Provider Network Services in Topeka at 785-291-4135 or 800-432-3587.