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Processing COVID 19 Vaccinations and Doses Update

The FDA has approved the use of COVID-19 vaccines with varying dose requirements to achieve expected efficacy for certain qualifying individuals. These claims should be submitted to Express Scripts in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Express Scripts Provider Manual and in previous communications, but with a revised Submission Clarification Codes to denote what specific dose was administered.

Submission Clarification Codes

All COVID-19 Vaccine claims require a Submission Clarification Code (SCC) in NCPDP field (420-DK):

- 02 – Initial dose of a two-dose vaccine
- 06 – Second dose of a two-dose vaccine
- 06 – Single Dose Vaccine
- 07 – Additional Dose of either a single-dose or two-dose vaccine
- 10 – Booster Dose of either a single-dose or two-dose vaccine

If a SCC is not present, claims will reject with NCPDP Reject 34 (Missing/Invalid Submission Clarification Code).

Medicare

All Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage claims must be processed as Medicare Part B Fee for Service. If a Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan is billed, the following NCPDP rejections will occur:

- A5 - Not allowed under Part D Law with secondary messaging: “Bill under original Medicare Part B FFS”
- A6 - This Product/service may be covered under Medicare Part B with secondary messaging: “Bill under original Medicare Part B FFS”

Coverage Under Medical Benefit

Some plan sponsors choose to cover vaccines, or some vaccines, under medical benefits. The following NCPDP rejects indicate that the patient does not have pharmacy benefit coverage for the COVID vaccine:

- 816 – Pharmacy benefit exclusion for vaccines
- 818 – Medication administration not covered
- 831 – (Medicaid) Product/Service may be paid under FFS

Consistent Manufacturer

If a member received a different manufacturer for their first vaccine than what is being submitted on the second claim, the claim will result in an NCPDP Reject 88 (DUR Reject Error). The Reason for Service will be Therapeutic Duplication with the DUR Message “Use same MFR as first dose.”

If there is a clinical exception to continue with a different manufacturer for the second vaccine, please use the following overrides, based on the appropriate scenario. Document the reason on the prescription as per standard process for overrides:

- Professional Service: MO, PO, PE, RO
- Result of Service: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G

If you need a member’s specific prescription processing information or other help with a claim, please visit our Pharmacist Resource Center at <https://prc.express-scripts.com>.