

Provider Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling

Providers can bill and be reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine counseling, in addition to vaccine administration.

We encourage health care professionals performing counseling visits to be prepared to provide vaccine or [refer to appropriate, accessible vaccine sites](#) to the patient.

Vaccine Counseling for COVID-19

You may get reimbursed for conversations on vaccine-related topics such as:

- Patient's reasons for not being vaccinated
- Addressing concerns identified by the patient
- Providing tailored and individualized medical advice regarding COVID-19 vaccine for that patient
- Providing resources about how to get a COVID-19 vaccine

All health insurances in Washington State must cover COVID-19 vaccine counseling for their established patients who have had at least one in-person appointment with the provider within the past three years. Coverage is open to children as well.

For Medicaid (Apple Health) clients, COVID-19 vaccine counseling is covered for both new and established patients and is open to all age groups.

Billing Summary

Contact insurers directly for instructions and amounts. Each carrier will have specific guidance for billing and coverage. Below is a summary from the [emergency order](#) requiring coverage for vaccine counseling and the [Medicaid policy](#).

Private Insurance

- Bill using diagnosis code Z71.89 **and** CPT code 99401, 99441 or 98966

- Consultation is by an in-network medical provider (does not include pharmacy services providers)
- Provider must have established relationship with patient
- Cap of two billings per patient

Medicaid

- Vaccine counseling is covered for both new and established clients
- Providers can bill in the following ways (Please review [AMA CPT® guidelines](#) for code guidance):
 - If the patient is prescheduled for a visit and counseling is then added, the provider may choose the appropriate E/M level
 - The provider may bill 99401 using modifier 25 in addition to billing EM visit; the E/M visit in this case should not include the time spent on COVID counseling
 - The provider may bill 99401 individually, if no E/M visit occurred and COVID vaccine counseling was provided
- Nurses/medical assistants nurses and medical assistants who counsel patients can bill using CPT® code 99211
- For further details on billing for Medicaid clients please review the [WA Medicaid COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Policy](#)

Resources

Check out these links for more information on vaccine counseling and reimbursement:

- [Webinar: Reimbursement and Billing for COVID-19 Vaccination Counseling & Vaccination](#)
- [OIC – Health Plans must cover COVID-19 vaccine consultation \(renewed\)](#)
- [Biden Administration— Requiring Medicaid to pay health care providers to talk to families about getting their kids vaccinated](#)
- [Medicaid - Vaccine Counseling for Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiaries](#)