



COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

When Can Patients Get a COVID-19 Vaccine?*

The [Oregon Health Authority](#) will continue to communicate vaccine developments and distribution guidelines. The OHA will consider guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prioritize vaccine distribution for additional high-risk groups in subsequent vaccine phases. The OHA coronavirus vaccine website, at covidvaccine.oregon.gov, is the best resource for information on the distribution phases.

Where Can Samaritan Health Plans' Members Get a COVID-19 Vaccine?*

- IHN-CCO members may receive their COVID-19 vaccinations from any licensed Oregon Medicaid provider (including county health departments).
- Medicare beneficiaries can receive their COVID-19 vaccinations from any Medicare provider even if the provider is out-of-network for their Medicare Advantage Plan. Providers and pharmacies must bill the administration cost of the vaccine to Original Medicare via the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).
- All other members can receive their COVID-19 vaccination from any provider, even if the provider is out-of-network.

How Should Providers Bill COVID-19 Vaccines and Administration Costs?

The COVID-19 vaccine is available at NO charge. The vaccine itself has been paid for through funding authorized by the CARES Act. Providers that receive the COVID-19 vaccine free from the federal government are prohibited from seeking reimbursement from members for vaccine administration costs—including through cost sharing or balance billing. Providers should bill any cost to administer the vaccination as follows:

- For IHN-CCO providers, the administration costs should be billed to IHN-CCO for reimbursement. Vaccine doses may be billed to IHN-CCO at \$.01 for reporting purposes (reimbursement will not be considered).
- For Samaritan Advantage Health Plans providers, payment for the administration costs will be reimbursed by Original Medicare. Claims should be submitted through the MAC and not include charges for the vaccine dose itself. Claims submitted to Samaritan Advantage Plan will be denied.

For Employer Group Plans and Samaritan Choice Health Plans, the administration costs should be billed to the member's plan. Vaccine doses may be billed at \$.01 for reporting purposes (reimbursement will not be considered).

- Modifiers are not required when submitting claims for the COVID-19 vaccine or administration costs. All places of service (POS) on the CMS POS list for vaccine codes are acceptable.

For information on coding and reimbursement rates please go to:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-part-b-drug-average-sales-price/covid-19-vaccines-and-monoclonal-antibodies>.

*Please check back as requirements may change

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