Billing Medicare for Respiratory Vaccines

This document explains how Medicare pays for vaccines administered during a patient’s stay in a nursing home. Vaccine payment depends on the type of vaccine and whether the patient is using their Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Part A benefit. This document doesn’t cover vaccine payment by Medicare managed care, Medicaid or commercial insurance.

Medicare billing guidelines

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines

Medicare Part D covers RSV vaccines with no consumer cost-sharing. If the vaccine is covered under a Part D plan, the long-term care (LTC) pharmacy will not bill separately for any administration of the vaccine per Medicare Part D’s vaccine administration guidance. If the facility administers the RSV vaccine, the facility may negotiate an administration fee with their LTC pharmacy, but the facility can’t bill an administration fee to Medicare or the patient.

For Part A stay residents with Part D (including hospice patients)

- LTC pharmacy will bill patient’s Part D plan for the RSV vaccine if the pharmacy is in-network. If the pharmacy is out-of-network, the pharmacy will bill the patient, who can submit their receipt to their Part D plan for payment.

  Note: Vaccine access from an out-of-network pharmacy should be rare given the Part D requirement to provide convenient access to LTC pharmacies.

  - If an outside vaccinator administers the RSV vaccine, the vaccinator will bill the patient’s Part D plan if the vaccinator is in-network. If the vaccinator is out-of-network, they’ll bill the patient, who can submit their receipt to their Part D plan for payment.

For non-Part A / long-term stay residents with Part D

- LTC pharmacy will bill patient’s Part D plan for the RSV vaccine if the pharmacy is in-network. If the pharmacy is out-of-network, the pharmacy will bill the patient, who can submit their receipt to their Part D plan for payment.

  - If an outside vaccinator administers the RSV vaccine, the vaccinator will bill the patient’s Part D plan if the vaccinator is in-network. If the vaccinator is out-of-network, they’ll bill the patient, who can submit their receipt to their Part D plan for payment.

For patients without Part D

- The LTC pharmacy will bill the patient for the RSV vaccine as an uncovered service.
Flu, pneumococcal & COVID-19 vaccines

Medicare Part B covers influenza, pneumococcal, and COVID-19 vaccines with no consumer cost-sharing. A vaccine may be billed by the facility or the LTC pharmacy, depending on whether the patient is in their Part A stay.

For Part A stay residents (including hospice patients)
- Facility will bill the vaccine cost and administration fee on single claims using Type of Bill (TOB) 22X, or submit claims on a roster bill for multiple patients at a time.
- LTC pharmacy isn’t allowed to bill directly for these Part B vaccines.
  Note: During the COVID-19 public health emergency, outside immunizers could bill Medicare directly for providing flu, pneumococcal, and COVID-19 vaccinations onsite at SNF facilities. This flexibility ended on June 30, 2023.

For non-Part A / long-term stay residents
- Facility can bill the vaccine cost and administration fee on single claims using TOB 23X, or submit claims on a roster bill for multiple patients at a time.
- LTC pharmacy can bill directly for both the vaccine cost and the administration fee.

CMS updates the price and billing codes for vaccines each year. See [2023-24 Medicare vaccine pricing and codes](#).

Get more information about Medicare vaccine billing

- Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration webpage
- Medicare Part D Vaccines – MLN Matters 908764
- Medicare Part D vaccine administration guidelines
- CMS guidance to managed care plans for vaccine coverage

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