

What Providers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccine Fees and Reimbursements

COVID-19 vaccines are 100% free to all individuals in the U.S. Only insurance companies or the federal government can be billed for vaccine administration fees, not patients.

While providers participating in the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program are required to request patient information to help verify an individual's uninsured status—including Social Security Number and, if unavailable, a driver's license/state ID number—this information is not required for an individual to get vaccinated.

Key Responsibilities for Organizations and Providers Administering COVID-19 Vaccine:

- Must administer COVID-19 vaccine regardless of the patient's ability to pay vaccine administration fees or their health insurance coverage status
- May not charge an office visit fee or other fee if COVID-19 vaccination is the sole medical service provided
- May not require patients seek additional medical services to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- May seek reimbursement from a program or plan that covers COVID-19 vaccine administration fees for the patient, such as a patient's private insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, or the federal government's COVID-19 Uninsured Program
- May not seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from vaccine recipients.

Key Facts on Reimbursement for COVID-19 Services Rendered to Uninsured Patients:

- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Uninsured Program is a voluntary federal program that reimburses providers for vaccine administration fees associated with uninsured individuals, as well as COVID-19 related testing and treatment for uninsured individuals, regardless of their immigration status.
- If seeking reimbursement from the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, providers are required to request certain information from the patient, including a Social Security Number and, if unavailable, a driver's license/state ID number, solely to check if the patient has other health insurance
 - Patients are NOT required to provide this information
 - Providers will still be reimbursed for eligible claims if they attest that they asked for this information, but it was not made available
- When requesting the patient's Social Security Number and other personal information, participating providers should remind patients that:

- Everyone can receive COVID-19 services, regardless of immigration status
 - The information will be used for reimbursement purposes only
 - The information will not be shared with immigration authorities
 - No one will be turned away if they don't provide this information
 - Testing, treatment or vaccinations paid for by the federal government will not impact anyone's current or future immigration status
- Providers should tell uninsured patients they will not be billed for COVID-19 vaccine services.

Providers who bill patients for COVID-19 vaccination fees may be reported to the HHS Office of Inspector General, including those participating in the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program