

# Billing for Pneumococcal Vaccines in Retail Pharmacy

Maximize patient access, minimize claims denials



## If the patient is enrolled in Medicare

- Medicare Part B covers the full cost of pneumococcal vaccines (beneficiaries pay \$0 out of pocket)<sup>1</sup>
- Retail pharmacies and other “mass immunizers” may use roster billing to reduce administrative burden<sup>2</sup>
- Medicare Part D covers some vaccines other than pneumococcal, flu, and hepatitis B vaccines<sup>2</sup>



## Patient is enrolled in commercial health insurance

- Most private health insurance plans cover pneumococcal vaccines<sup>1</sup>
- Private insurers have varying policies; pneumococcal vaccines **may be covered under either the medical or pharmacy benefit**<sup>2,3</sup>
- Pharmacies that bill commercial medical insurers must be contracted with the payer to be reimbursed<sup>3</sup>



## Patient is enrolled in Medicaid

- Medicaid coverage policies vary by state<sup>2</sup>
- Private insurers have varying policies; pneumococcal vaccines **may be covered under either the medical or pharmacy benefit**<sup>2,4</sup>
- Contact the state Medicaid agency for information about claims procedures for pneumococcal vaccines<sup>2</sup>

**For non-Medicare patients, if a claim cannot be adjudicated under the pharmacy benefit, attempt adjudication through the medical benefit**

# Procedural Flow for Billing Pneumococcal Vaccines in Retail Pharmacy

What kind of coverage does the patient have?



## Medicare

(fee for service (FFS) or Medicare Advantage)

Ask for medical insurance card

### Medicare FFS

Vaccinate and E-bill with form 837P or use a modified CMS-1500 for roster billing<sup>4,5</sup>

- Use HCPCS G0009 to bill for pneumococcal vaccine administration
- Use Z23 as the diagnosis code

- **In Medicare fee for service, pneumococcal vaccines are billed under Part B**
- **If the patient has Medicare Advantage, bill the plan**



## Commercial insurance

Refer to plan policy for billing information

Ask for prescription insurance card\*

**For non-Medicare patients, if a claim cannot be adjudicated under the pharmacy benefit, attempt adjudication through the medical benefit**

Can vaccination be adjudicated through the pharmacy benefit at the terminal?

NO

Ask for medical insurance card

Vaccinate and follow billing procedures outlined by plan<sup>2</sup>

- Use code 90471 to bill for pneumococcal vaccine administration
- Use Z23 as the diagnosis code

YES

Vaccinate

\*If medical coverage is separate from pharmacy coverage.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pneumococcal vaccination: what everyone should know. Updated January 24, 2022. Accessed March 15, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/public/index.html> 2. Immunization Action Coalition. Vaccinating adults: a step-by-step guide. Step 7b: How to bill for adult immunizations. 2017. Accessed March 15, 2022. <https://www.immunize.org/guide/pdfs/vacc-adults-step7B.pdf> 3. King J. Navigating the world of vaccine billing. *Pharmacy Times*. June 25, 2019. Accessed March 15, 2022. <https://www.pharmacytimes.com/view/navigating-the-world-of-vaccine-billing> 4. National Community Pharmacists Association. A guide to implementing vaccine services in community pharmacy. September 2021. Accessed March 31, 2022. [https://ncpa.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/2021\\_NCPAPfizerVaccinationBooklet\\_Final.pdf](https://ncpa.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/2021_NCPAPfizerVaccinationBooklet_Final.pdf) 5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. MLN Booklet. Mass immunizers and roster billing for influenza virus and pneumococcal vaccinations. July 2018. Accessed March 30, 2020. <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Documents/Local%20Health%20Department%20Billing%20Manual/PDF%20Manual/Section%20VI/MC%20Mass%20Immunize%20Roster%20Bill%20Factsheet%20MLN.pdf>