

Understanding Vaccine Coverage: Medicare Part B vs. Part D

Are vaccines covered under Medicare Part B or Medicare Part D?

MEDICARE PART B (Medical) covers flu, pneumonia and hepatitis B vaccines for members at moderate to high risk, tetanus (for treatment of an injury) and rabies (with direct exposure) vaccines and the corresponding administration fees.

Member's responsibility:

- \$0 copay for flu, hepatitis B and pneumococcal¹
- Tetanus and rabies will be subject to a 20% coinsurance¹

MEDICARE PART D (Pharmacy) covers the majority of vaccines. The shingles vaccine, Zostavax™, is one popular vaccine covered under Part D. Tetanus is another common vaccine covered under Part D if being administered for routine preventive care.

Member's responsibility:

- Subject to the member's applicable Part D prescription copayment²

Please see chart of covered Medicare Part B and D vaccines on the reverse.

Preferred Methods for a Member to Receive a Part D Vaccine

There are two preferred methods for a member to receive a Part D vaccine, which must be billed to the member's prescription benefit. These methods only charge the member the prescription copay associated with the vaccine and do not incur the unnecessary out-of-pocket expense of paper claim submissions.

Physician-administered Part D vaccines



- We offer an online option for health care providers to process Medicare Part D vaccines and administration claims with TransactRx™ Part D Vaccine Manager. TransactRx™ is a web portal that provides health care providers with real-time claims processing for in-office administered Medicare Part D vaccines.
- The member will not be required to submit claim forms for reimbursement if the claim is billed through insurance by the health care provider's office using TransactRx.
- The member will receive the vaccine and pay the applicable coinsurance or copay, either under Part B or Part D at the office.

Pharmacist-administered vaccines



- In most states, pharmacists can administer select vaccines. In New York State, pharmacists are licensed to administer flu (Part B), pneumonia (Part B), shingles (Part D) and tetanus (Part B or Part D depending on diagnosis).
- At the pharmacy, the member will receive the vaccine and pay the applicable coinsurance or copay, either under Part B or Part D.
- To prevent unnecessary out of pocket costs to the member, obtaining the shingles (Zostavax™) and tetanus vaccines at the pharmacy is the best option. The claim is billed through insurance and the member will not be required to submit claim forms for reimbursement. In New York State a prescription is required to obtain the flu, pneumonia, tetanus or shingles (Zostavax™) vaccines. New York State protocol requirements apply.

¹ When services other than preventive care are performed, the office visit copay will apply.

² Medicare BluePlus, Medicare BlueEssential, Medicare Blue Choice Value and Medicare Blue Choice Select members may be subject to a Part D deductible

Vaccines Covered by Medicare Part B vs. Medicare Part D

Medicare Part B:

- Influenza vaccine (Flu)
- Pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax, Prevnar 13)
- Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax, Engerix-B) members at moderate to high risk
- Other vaccines (when directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition, such as):
 - Rabies virus vaccine (RabAvert, Imovax Rabies)
 - Tetanus toxoid vaccine (Tetanus toxoid absorbed)

Please note - A vaccine could have several commercial trade names, e.g. Pneumovax and Prevnar 13. Coverage exists if there are other trade names for a specific vaccine.

Medicare Part D:

- Chickenpox vaccine (Varivax)
- Diphtheria /Tetanus vaccine
- Diphtheria /Pertussis /Tetanus vaccine (Daptacel)
- Haemophilus Influenzae B/Hepatitis B (Comvax)
- Hepatitis A vaccine (Havrix, VAQTA)
- Hepatitis A/Hepatitis B vaccine (Twinrix)
- Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax, Engerix-B) for members at low risk
- Human-Bovine Rotavirus (Rotateq)
- Human Papillomavirus (Gardasil)
- Japanese Encephalitis virus vaccine (JE-Vax)
- Measles vaccine (Attenuvax)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella vaccine (M-M-R II)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella vaccine (Proquad)
- Meningococcal Polysaccharide vaccine (Menomune)
- Meningococcal Polysaccharide Diphtheria toxoid vaccine (Menactra)
- Pertussis/Diphtheria/Tetanus vaccine (Adacel, Boostrix, Infanrix)
- Pertussis/Diphtheria/Hepatitis B/Polio vaccine (Pediarix)
- Poliovirus vaccine Inactivated (IPOL)
- Rabies vaccine (RabAvert, Imovax Rabies) for prevention
- Rubella virus vaccine (Meruvax II)
- Tetanus toxoid vaccine (Tetanus toxoid Adsorbed) for prevention
- Typhoid VI Polysaccharide vaccine (Typhim VI)
- Yellow-Fever virus vaccine (YF-Vax)
- Zoster vaccine live (Zostavax)

If you have any questions regarding the information you have received please contact our Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-800-724-5033. The Pharmacy Help Desk is available Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST.



Excellus BlueCross Blue Shield contracts with the federal government and is an <HMO;PPO> plan with a Medicare Contract. Enrollment in Excellus BlueCross Blue Shield depends on Contract Renewal.

This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, Copayments and restrictions may apply.

Benefits or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year.