



December 2, 2020

**RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and Reimbursement Update**

Dear Customer,

With pharmaceutical companies beginning to submit their COVID-19 vaccines to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for distribution under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in the coming weeks, the anticipated arrival of an effective vaccine has understandably become a topic of great interest.

According to the latest guidance, while the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expects that there will be sufficient supply of vaccine to distribute to all beneficiaries, distribution may be done in phases in order to prioritize initial populations. These may include health care workers, frontline and other essential workers, as well as people with increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccinations will be available at pharmacies as well as doctors' offices and other clinical sites of care. The vaccine will be covered under the medical or pharmacy benefit, depending on the site of administration. If the vaccine is administered by a pharmacy, it will be covered under the pharmacy benefit. If the vaccine is administered by a doctor's office or another clinical site of care, it will be covered under the medical benefit. The initial vaccines will require administration in two doses. For example, the vaccine from Pfizer requires an initial dose and then a second dose 21 days later.

During the initial phase of limited vaccine supply, the federal government will purchase all the initial supply of the vaccine and allocate vaccines to the states for prioritized distribution. During this time, the federal government will be covering the ingredient cost of the COVID-19 vaccine. However, insurers and plan sponsors will be required to cover the administration cost, with most plans requiring zero cost share to their plan members.

**No action required:**

**Aetna fully insured or Aetna Funding Advantage with pharmacy**

As a fully insured or AFA plan sponsor with Aetna Medical and Pharmacy, COVID-19 vaccinations will be covered under both the medical and pharmacy benefit based on the site of administration as outlined above.

We will continue publishing updates through **Aetna.com** as information becomes available. We recommend bookmarking this site and referring to it to gain the most up-to-date Aetna COVID-19 information.

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