

All MCOs: Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Update; Comirnaty and Pfizer Age Change

Background:

On August 23, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, now marketed as Comirnaty, for individuals 16 years of age and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine also continues to be available under the emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 12 through 15 years of age as of May 10, 2021. The use of the name Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be referenced for individuals 12-15 years old since this age group does not have full FDA approval. Additionally, the FDA issued a new EUA for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine on October 29, 2021, for children aged 5-11 years.

Key Details:

HHSC will update the Medicaid and CHIP pharmacy benefit coverage for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Comirnaty

Comirnaty is the brand name for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and has its own unique National Drug Codes (NDC). There has been no change in the formulation of the vaccine for the brand-name product. Beginning October 25, 2021, Medicaid will cover the brand name Comirnaty COVID-19 Vaccine. The NDCs for each vaccine will be added to the formulary for Medicaid and CHIP as a payable pharmacy benefit.

Drug name	Dosage	NDC
COMIRNATY COVID-19 VACCINE	30 mcg/0.3 mL	00069-1000-02
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VDP will backdate the effective date of formulary coverage for Comirnaty to August 23, 2021, to align with the FDA approval date. MCOs must work with their pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to modify their systems to cover the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine with an effective date of August 23, 2021.

Age Change

The FDA issued a new EUA for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine on October 29, 2021, for children aged 5-11 years. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children is a different product, tris-sucrose formulation, and requires different storage, dosage, and dilution, from the vaccines currently available for adolescents and adults.

On November 1, 2021, HHSC added coverage for the pediatric Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. HHSC will add the NDCs for each vaccine to the formulary for Medicaid and CHIP as a reimbursable pharmacy benefit for members ages 5-11.

Drug name	Dosage	NDC
Pfizer COVID-19 (5-11Y) vaccine (EUA)	10 mcg/0.2 mL	59267-1055-01
Pfizer COVID-19 (5-11Y) vaccine (EUA)	10 mcg/0.2 mL	59267-1055-02
Pfizer COVID-19 (5-11Y) vaccine (EUA)	10 mcg/0.2 mL	59267-1055-04