



# Client Update

December 10, 2020

## Subject: Preparations in Place for the COVID Vaccine

### Introduction

The anticipated approval of an effective COVID-19 vaccine is understandably a topic of great interest. New details related to the vaccines are unfolding every day, with an anticipated Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) under consideration at the time of this writing. As mentioned in previous updates, there is no cost to the American public for the vaccine ingredient costs as they will be federally purchased with taxpayer funds.

In the following FAQs, we have provided the latest information regarding vaccine administration. Our goal is to help you understand the potential impact to your plan, specific actions we will be taking at WellDyne and the choices available to our clients.

We will update our FAQ document regularly to keep you informed throughout this process.

### FAQs

#### Fees, Vaccine Administration and Claim Processing

##### How does the CARES Act relate to the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is provided to the American public through provisions included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. CARES ensures swift coverage of a COVID-19 vaccine by most private health insurance plans without member cost sharing during the course of the public health emergency.

##### Is there a fee for the vaccine? How will WellDyne process COVID-19 vaccine claims?

Although there will be no charge for the vaccine itself (as it is provided free of charge through the CARES Act), there will be an administration fee that will be billed to plan sponsors. Following appropriate industry and federal guidance, we have prepared our claim system to accommodate the rules for processing COVID-19 vaccine administration fees.

##### What are the payment rates for administering the COVID-19 vaccine?

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), payment rates to reimburse providers for vaccine administration have been established as follows:

- **\$28.39** – Pharmacy reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine administration to administer a single-dose vaccine.
- **\$16.94** – Pharmacy reimbursement for the initial dose of a vaccine requiring 2 doses and **\$28.39** for the administration of the final dose in the series.

For submitted vaccine claims, WellDyne will pass through the administration fee charged by the provider to our clients.





### **Have payment rates for administering the COVID-19 vaccine been implemented in the WellDyne claim system?**

Yes, the necessary set-up to process COVID-19 claims is in place. We have taken all proactive steps to ensure our claim system is ready once the vaccine is approved and available. Vaccine claims will be handled as “non-formulary” claims, however there will be no resulting impact to member cost share. While there will be no utilization management or prior authorization protocols implemented initially, we will reassess as needed.

### **Is this an opt-in or an opt-out situation regarding claim processing?**

Across our business, plans will be set up as an “opt-in” to process vaccine administration claims for COVID-19 within their pharmacy benefit, according to national guidelines. For maximum health, wellness and safety of plan members, WellDyne recommends that clients extend plan coverage for the vaccine in accordance with the guidelines.

However, clients that want vaccine administration claims handled in a different manner need to contact their Client Services liaison to opt out and provide specific directions regarding their wishes. All vaccine claims will be processed as opt-in, as described above, unless/until we receive written notification from a client requesting non-standard, opt-out handling.

## **General Information**

### **Are there different approaches for vaccines from different manufacturers?**

Claims administration will be handled in the same manner, regardless of the pharmaceutical manufacturer.

### **What is WellDyne doing to ensure COVID-19 vaccine planning aligns with national standards?**

WellDyne leaders are actively participating in emergency preparedness calls sponsored by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP). During these calls, we have the opportunity to share our input and ensure we have the most current information available regarding national standards to support and guide our clients. Discussion focuses on planning for all aspects of vaccine administration, including costs, supply, claims processing and reporting.

### **What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?**

The FDA commissioner may allow unapproved medical products or unapproved uses of approved medical products to be used in an emergency to diagnose, treat or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions. An EUA may be granted when there are no adequate, approved and available alternatives. The known and potential benefits of the product must outweigh the known and potential risks to grant an EUA.

### **How can I find out more information?**

Refer to the CDC website for updated COVID-19 vaccine policies and guidance. As always, your Client Services liaison is here for any further questions.

