

Kaiser Permanente

Post COVID Public Health Emergency Vaccine FAQ – Updated May 09, 2023

Contracted and Non-Contracted Providers

The purpose of these FAQs is to communicate to Kaiser Permanente (KP) contracted and non-contracted providers how to submit claims for reimbursement of COVID-19 vaccine administration, after the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends. These FAQs reflect the requirements of the interim final rule (federal regulation) regarding vaccine administration as well as other information.

1. Is COVID-19 vaccine and administration covered? Is KP waiving the copay / cost share?

COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to be covered as follows:

Commercial	Vaccine Coverage	Vaccine Copay/Cost Share Waived
CA – In Network	Yes	Yes
CA – Out of Network	Yes	Yes, through November 11, 2023
CO, GA, HI, MD, VA, D.C., OR, WA – In Network	Yes	Applicable plan cost share will apply, typically is \$0.00
CO, GA, HI, MD, VA, D.C., OR, WA – Out of Network	No *	N/A *
Medicare	Vaccine Coverage	Vaccine Copay/Cost Share Waived
In Network	Yes	Applicable plan cost share will apply, typically is \$0.00
Out of Network	No *	N/A*
Medicaid	Vaccine Coverage	Vaccine Copay/Cost Share Waived
Medi-Cal - In Network	Yes	Yes
Medi-Cal - Out of Network	Yes	Yes
CO, HI, MD, VA, OR, WA – In Network	Yes	Applicable plan cost share will apply, typically is \$0.00
CO, HI, MD, VA, OR, WA – Out of Network	No *	Yes**

* Applicable benefits coverage applies (urgent and emergent services only).

** Vaccine is covered by Medicaid standard benefit and no cost sharing, at least through 9/30/2024.

2. Is a pre-authorization required from KP to administer a COVID-19 vaccine?

Commercial: Vaccines are considered preventative services and therefore do not require an authorization when administered in network.

Medicare: Vaccines are considered preventative services and therefore do not require an authorization when administered in network.

Medi-Cal (CA): Authorization for vaccination is waived for in or out of network.

Medicaid (outside of CA): Authorization for vaccination authorization is waived in network.

3. Are providers allowed to bill KP for the COVID-19 vaccine?

Providers who receive vaccine dosages from the Federal government at no charge through the Operation Warp Speed (OWS) distribution may not bill for the vaccine. When providers must procure vaccines at a cost, KP's process for administration and billing of vaccines will be updated accordingly.

4. How do providers get reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine administration?

Commercial

Providers should bill KP via EDI for vaccine administration for KP commercial (non-Medicare, non-Medicaid) members.

Medicare

Effective for dates of service prior to January 1, 2022, for vaccine administration, (including recommended booster doses), to KP Medicare members, providers must submit a Medicare fee-for-service claim to CMS.

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2022, the COVID-19 vaccine administration (including recommended booster doses), will be reimbursed via Medicare Advantage under Medicare Part B, without cost sharing. Providers should no longer bill CMS directly for COVID-19 vaccine administration. Providers should bill KP via EDI for vaccine administration.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccine policies and guidance, please see the toolkits found at <https://www.cms.gov/COVIDvax> and <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/medicare-billing-covid-19-vaccine-shot-administration>

Medi-Cal/Medicaid

For vaccine administration to KP Medi-Cal members (CA only), providers must submit a claim to DHCS for reimbursement. For vaccine administration to KP Medicaid or CHP members (CO, HI, VA, MD, OR, WA), providers should bill KP via EDI for vaccine administration.

5. What is the KP reimbursement rate for COVID-19 vaccine administration to commercial members?

KP will reimburse for the administration of the vaccine.

For CA Commercial line of business, reimbursement for vaccine administration will be the specifically negotiated rate or the geographically adjusted Medicare rate for in or out of network providers.

Outside of CA Commercial line of business, reimbursement for vaccine administration will be based on specifically negotiated rate for in network providers.