



# COVID-19 Immunization

## Truths & Myths

### **Myth: It's too late to get started.**

**Truth:** It's not too late to get started. However, you must act. It is recommended to reach out and work with all professional organizations your pharmacy is affiliated with (i.e., NCPA, ASCP, State Pharmacy Associations, GPO and PSAO). Most, if not all, have dedicated resources to help you navigate what is required and have been actively involved since the beginning. Multiple organizations have leveraged the size of their membership for inclusion in the immunization process.

*Note: It is important to stay engaged as this is a very fluid process and is being updated daily.*

### **Myth: The COVID-19 Vaccine is processed differently.**

**Truth:** *For Phase 1:* Medicare will pay for eligible beneficiaries via the same process as flu and pneumonia vaccines. Medicare Advantage plans will pay the same as traditional Medicare.

### **Myth: COVID-19 Vaccine is a Rx benefit.**

**Truth:** Medicare and Medicare Advantage are medical benefit claims. With Medicaid – each state will determine whether medical or prescription (Likely will follow policy of flu and pneumonia vaccines). Commercial will be determined by the payor. Un-insured will likely fall under an HHS program with payment method TBD.

### **Myth: Medicare has yet to determine payment rates.**

**Truth:** Medicare payment rates for the COVID-19 vaccine administration will be \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines. For a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of two or more doses, the initial dose(s) administration payment rate will be \$16.94, and \$28.39 for the administration of the final dose in the series. Other payers will determine their payment rates.

## **Myth: My PMS reports directly to the registries using the HL7 interface.**

**Truth:** All RedSail PMS platforms utilize industry partners for registry reporting.

## **Myth: COVID-19 vaccinations must be reported immediately.**

**Truth:** The Immunization Information System (IIS) registry of the state the patient resides within 24 hours of administering the vaccine. During Phase I additional reporting may be required from your Federal Pharmacy Partner providing the vaccine. This partner will forward this reporting to the CDC. It is unclear whether this additional reporting will continue after Phase I.

## **Myth: Manual entry is my only option for reporting services.**

**Truth:** RedSail PMS interface with Strand-Rx Immunization Documentation & Reporting module (OmniSYS®) and Script Management Partners (SMP). Pharmacies also have the option of manual entry directly into their registry.

*Note: Many state IIS registries are experiencing unprecedented demand for on-boarding which has led to delays in many areas. In these cases, manual entry may be the easiest option to implement.*

## **Myth: Enrolling to administer the COVID-19 Vaccine is difficult.**

**Truth:** Enrolling to administer the COVID-19 requires knowledge and action. Visit [cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/enrollment-administering-covid-19-vaccine-shots](https://cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/enrollment-administering-covid-19-vaccine-shots) for more information and learn how to get started.

## **Key Questions and Tips for getting started:**

*Q: Are you already enrolled in Medicare?*

**A:** If you are enrolled in Medicare to bill for influenza and pneumonia vaccines, you do not need to take any action to administer and bill the COVID-19 shot.

*Q: Are you enrolled in Medicare, but your provider type does not allow you to bill for administering vaccines?*

**A:** You must also separately enroll as a mass immunizer. Enrolling over the phone as a mass immunizer is easy and quick – call your MAC-specific enrollment hotline using the enrollment hotline [cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-mac-webpages-and-hotlines.pdf](https://cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-mac-webpages-and-hotlines.pdf) and provide the following:

- Valid Legal Business Name (LBN)
- National Provider Identifier (NPI)

- Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- Practice location and state license, *if applicable*.

**Q: Are you currently not enrolled as a Medicare provider?**

**A:** If you're not a Medicare provider, you must qualify and enroll as a mass immunizer (or other Medicare provider type that allows billing for administering vaccines), so you can bill for administering COVID-19 shots. Enrolling over the phone as a mass immunizer is easy and quick – call your MAC-specific enrollment hotline at [cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-mac-webpages-and-hotlines.pdf](https://cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-mac-webpages-and-hotlines.pdf) and give your valid LBN, NPI, TIN, practice location and state license, if applicable.

***Note:** Medicare billing privileges established via the Medicare Provider Enrollment Hotline are being granted on a provisional basis because of the public health emergency (PHE) declaration and are temporary. Upon the lifting of the COVID-19 PHE declaration, providers and suppliers, will be asked to submit a complete CMS-855B enrollment application to establish full Medicare billing privileges. Failure to respond to the MAC's request within 30 days of the notification, will result in the deactivation of your temporary billing privileges. No payments can be made for services provided while your temporary billing privileges are deactivated.*

## **Additional available COVID-19 resources:**

- HHS Coronavirus Update: [hhs.gov/coronavirus/news/index.html](https://hhs.gov/coronavirus/news/index.html)
- CDC Coronavirus Center: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- Partner Toolkit: [cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit](https://cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit)
- NCPA COVID-19 Best Practices: [covidbestpractices.com/?fbclid=IwAR3kyt4icbgZahpMI9Bbby2F7OtbN5SNsWMI6ahYsII-8tdlqcFqGJ3th\\_4](https://covidbestpractices.com/?fbclid=IwAR3kyt4icbgZahpMI9Bbby2F7OtbN5SNsWMI6ahYsII-8tdlqcFqGJ3th_4)
- FDA COVID-19 Information: [fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19](https://fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19)
- APha Guide to Coronavirus: [pharmacist.com/coronavirus](https://pharmacist.com/coronavirus)
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operation: [cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim\\_Playbook.pdf](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf)