

# Provider Insider

Alabama Medicaid Bulletin

July 2021

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes descriptors, and other data are copyright © 2021 American Medical Association and © 2021 American Dental Association (or such other date publication of CPT and CDT). All rights reserved. Applicable FARS/DFARS apply.

## DR. CHRISTOPHER STANLEY NAMED NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Alabama Medicaid welcomed Dr. Christopher J. Stanley as the new medical director in May 2021. Dr. Stanley has over 30 years of clinical experience in OBGYN and Urogynecology, as well as having served as medical director of Female Pelvic Medicine for Halifax Health, a large safety-net hospital system in the Daytona Beach/Orlando area.

Alabama Medicaid Commissioner Stephanie Azar said, “I am excited to welcome Dr. Stanley to our team. He offers a unique perspective with his background in obstetrics and gynecology which benefits not only our family planning and maternity programs, but the Agency as a whole.”

Dr. Stanley earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Notre Dame in 1984. After graduating from the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine in 1989, he completed his residency at Vanderbilt University. He obtained his Master of Business Administration from Auburn University Harbert College of Business in 2019. Dr. Stanley is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist and female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgeon.

Dr. Stanley said, “One of my main goals in coming to Alabama Medicaid is to focus on improving quality and access to care for recipients. With the Alabama Coordinated Health Network, or ACHN, the Agency made considerable strides to focus on improving quality of care, and I look forward to exploring ways to continue making improvements.”



Please join the Agency in welcoming Dr. Stanley to Alabama Medicaid and to the state of Alabama!

## In This Issue

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>Dr. Christopher Stanley Named New Medical Director</i> .....                  | 1  |
| <i>Upcoming PERM Cycle to Begin Soon</i> .....                                   | 2  |
| <i>Resource for Families in Alabama</i> .....                                    | 2  |
| <i>Managed Care</i> .....  | 3  |
| <i>ACHN PCP Bonus Payment Timelines</i> .....                                    | 5  |
| <i>Provider Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration</i> .....          | 7  |
| <i>NCPDP Codes and Allowed Amounts for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration</i> ..... | 9  |
| <i>Check Write Schedule Reminder</i> .....                                       | 11 |

## Pass It On!

Everyone needs to know the latest about Medicaid. Be sure to route this to:

- Office Manager
- Billing Dept.
- Medical/Clinical Professionals
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

The information contained within is subject to change. Please review your Provider Manual and all Provider Alerts for the most up-to-date information.



## UPCOMING PERM CYCLE TO BEGIN SOON

The Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) audits authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Reporting Year 2023 (RY 2023) will begin soon. The PERM program measures improper payments in Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and produces state and national-level error rates for each program. CMS has contracted with NCI Information Systems, Inc. (NCI) as the Review Contractor (RC) to conduct the reviews for this cycle. If providers are contacted by NCI requesting medical records, providers are required to comply with the request as referenced in the Administrative Code, the Provider Manual, as well as their provider agreements. Providers are asked to submit accurate and complete documentation in a timely manner. For questions, please contact Patricia Jones, PERM Program Coordinator, at 334-242-5609 or [Patricia.Jones@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:Patricia.Jones@medicaid.alabama.gov).



---

## RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES IN ALABAMA

Alabama Family Central has launched a new website, [AlabamaFamilyCentral.org](http://AlabamaFamilyCentral.org), which is a comprehensive, easy-to-use web and mobile destination offering parents and families, guardians, teachers and caregivers a one-stop resource to programs and services in Alabama.

The website provides helpful information about childcare, education, family services and health services. Visitors, parents and caretakers can search for Medicaid-related content that will direct them to [Medicaid’s website](#) for assistance.

Governor Kay Ivey’s office introduced the website this year as a collaborative effort of several state agencies and other partners to ensure that every family in Alabama gets the support and tools needed to raise strong, healthy children.

Providers are encouraged to share this valuable resource with patients throughout Alabama. If you are aware of a resource that may be helpful to families, you may submit information to the Alabama Family Central website by completing a submission form [here](#).

The Alabama Family Central website is a collaboration managed by the Alabama Partnership for Children and includes:

- Office of the Governor of Alabama
- A+ Education Partnership
- Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
- Alabama Department of Education
- Alabama Department of Human Resources
- Alabama Department of Mental Health
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Alabama Medicaid Agency
- Alabama Office of Information Technology



---

## MANAGED CARE

### IMPORTANT UPDATE: PCP and DHCP Referrals during the Public Health Emergency

**Delivering Healthcare Professional (DHCP) Referrals:** Effective with dates of service July 1, 2021, the DHCP Selection Referral number will be required on all maternity claims for reimbursement from Medicaid.

**Note: Medicaid recipients that are not assigned to an Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN) on the date of service will not require a DHCP referral from the ACHN for reimbursement.**

**Primary Care Physician (PCP) Referrals:** Medicaid will continue to lift the PCP referral requirement until the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Remember to sign up for Provider ALERTs to get the latest updates on Medicaid announcements including any adjustments to the PHE expiration date.

## Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Attestations

PCMH attestations are due to the Agency no later than October 1, 2021. **ALL** participating ACHN PCP groups that would like to start or continue to receive the 5% PCMH bonus payment for FY 2022 must attest to the Agency by the specified deadline. The PCMH attestation form is available on the ACHN providers section of the Medicaid website by visiting [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov) >ACHN>ACHN Providers> ACHN/PCP Forms. For questions or assistance with the PCMH attestation process, you may contact [ACHN@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:ACHN@medicaid.alabama.gov).

## Importance of Updating Provider Enrollment Files

It is important that all ACHN providers (group and individual) maintain their provider enrollment files with the Fiscal Agent. This includes, but not limited to, provider specialties. Incorrect provider specialties may cause delays in ACHN care coordination services for Medicaid recipients.

## Attribution Report Timeline

The following table lists the time frame in which attribution reports will be available via the secure web portal:

| Attribution Period                  | Attribution Run Month | Attribution Reports Available |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021    | November 2020         | First week of December 2020   |
| April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021       | February 2021         | First week of March 2021      |
| July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021   | May 2021              | First week of June 2021       |
| October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021 | August 2021           | First week of September 2021  |

For additional information about attribution reports, you may access Chapter 40 of the Provider Billing Manual at the following link: [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.6\\_Manuals.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.6_Manuals.aspx)

## Alabama Coordinated Health Network Bonus Payments

All PCP groups, including FQHCs and RHCs, who actively participate with the ACHN qualify to receive bonus payments. The next quarterly bonus payments will be issued on the second checkwrite of July 2021.


A bonus pool has been established in the amount of \$15 million annually to fund three (3) bonus payments for eligible participating PCP groups. The bonus payment pool is allotted as follows:

- 50% for Quality
- 45% for Cost Effectiveness
- 5% for PCMH Recognition



## ACHN PCP BONUS PAYMENT TIMELINES

|  |  |  | Fall 2019                          |           |              | Winter 2020 |             |             | Spring 2020 |             |          | Summer 2020 |        |         | Fall 2020 |           |              | Winter 2021 |             |             | Spring 2021 |             |          | Summer 2021 |        |         | Fall 2021 |           |              |            |             |             |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Base Timeline Model for Initial Calculated Payment |  |  | July-19                            | August-19 | September-19 | October-19  | November-19 | December-19 | January-20  | February-20 | March-20 | April-20    | May-20 | June-20 | July-20   | August-20 | September-20 | October-20  | November-20 | December-20 | January-21  | February-21 | March-21 | April-21    | May-21 | June-21 | July-21   | August-21 | September-21 | October-21 | November-21 | December-21 |
| Patient Attribution                                |  |  | Rolling 24 Month Lookback          |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |            |             |             |
| Quality  |  |  | Calendar Year w 6 Months Roll Out  |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |            |             |             |
| Cost Effectiveness                                 |  |  | 12 Months Data w 3 Months Roll Out |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |            |             |             |
| PCMH   |  |  |                                    |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |             |             |             |             |             |          |             |        |         |           |           |              |            |             |             |

 Data Source Month

 First Calculated Payment Date

**Quality Bonus Payment:** Beginning October 2021, the PCP group must achieve annual quality benchmarks determined by the Agency to earn a quality bonus payment. The quarterly payment made in October 2021 will be based on the actual quality measure performance calculated for the period between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

**Cost Effectiveness Bonus Payment:** Beginning January 2021, PCP groups will be eligible for a bonus payment if the PCP group meets or exceeds the cost effectiveness criteria established by the Agency. The quarterly payments made in July 2021 will be based on the actual cost effectiveness calculated for the period between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. A new Cost Effectiveness Q&A document is available on the ACHN providers section of the Medicaid website, by visiting [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/5.0\\_Managed\\_Care/5.1\\_ACHN/5.1.3\\_ACHN\\_Providers.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/5.0_Managed_Care/5.1_ACHN/5.1.3_ACHN_Providers.aspx).

**Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition Bonus Payment:** Beginning October 2020, PCP groups will be eligible for bonus payments based on actual PCMH recognition. The Agency will review attestation of PCMH recognition on an annual basis. **The deadline to qualify for FY 2022 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) is October 1, 2021.** Refer to Chapter 40 of the Provider Billing Manual for detailed information regarding the PCMH attestation process.

### Alabama Coordinated Health Network Provider Profiler Reports

Evaluation of quality and cost effectiveness will be necessary for a PCP group to manage their actual performance. It is important for the provider to review the quarterly Provider Profiler to visualize how the provider is performing throughout the year. The Provider Profiler provides the PCP with a mechanism to monitor areas that may need improvement in order to achieve quality and cost effectiveness for a higher bonus payment. The Provider Profiler will be released quarterly. More information about the Provider Profiler can be found by visiting [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov) >ACHN>ACHN Quality Measures. The next Provider Profiler will be released at the end of July 2021.



## PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT FOR COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

Costs for COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) are covered by the federal government and Alabama Medicaid provides vaccine administration coverages for Medicaid-enrolled providers. A summary of information regarding COVID-19 vaccine administration is available below. Specific information is available on the Agency website at [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.11\\_COVID-19\\_Vaccine\\_Providers.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.11_COVID-19_Vaccine_Providers.aspx).

Alabama Medicaid allows reimbursement of a vaccine administration fee to Medicaid providers who utilize federally allocated COVID-19 vaccines. Medicaid-enrolled providers should not bill for the vaccine if using federally allocated vaccines. Rates recognize the costs involved in administering the vaccine, including the additional resources involved with required public health reporting, conducting important outreach and patient education, and spending additional time with patients to answer any questions they may have about the vaccine.

### For Providers (Non-Pharmacy):

- Effective March 15, 2021, and continuing only during that time as described by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that provides for increased FMAP for administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine, unless ended sooner by the Alabama Medicaid Agency in a subsequent ALERT, Medicaid will increase reimbursement for the following procedure codes for administration of the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine** for recipients 12 years of age and older:

| Administration CPT Code | Short Description                  | Medicaid Rate |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 0001A                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> dose, 30mcg/0.3 mL | \$40          |
| 0002A                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose, 30mcg/0.3 mL | \$40          |

- Effective March 15, 2021, and continuing only during that time as described by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that provides for increased FMAP for administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine, unless ended sooner by the Alabama Medicaid Agency in a subsequent ALERT, Medicaid will increase reimbursement for the following procedure codes for the administration of the **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine** for recipients 18 years of age and older:

| Administration CPT Code | Short Description                  | Medicaid Rate |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 0011A                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> dose-100mcg/0.5mL  | \$40          |
| 0012A                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose-100mcg/0.5 mL | \$40          |

- Effective March 15, 2021, and continuing only during that time as described by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that provides for increased FMAP for administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine, unless ended sooner by the Alabama Medicaid Agency in a subsequent ALERT, Medicaid will increase reimbursement for the following procedure codes for the administration of the **Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine** for recipients 18 years of age and older:

| Administration CPT Code | Short Description          | Medicaid Rate |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 0031A                   | ADM SARSCOV2 VAC AD26 .5mL | \$40          |

To participate in the administration of COVID-19 vaccine, Alabama providers must enroll in the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) ImmPRINT COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Follow the steps in the [ImmPRINT Registration Roadmap](#) to enroll.

Providers must follow state and federal laws and regulations regarding administration of vaccines.

State and federal standing order guidelines for products granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) must be followed. Standing order guidelines can be found at the links below:

- [Pfizer/BioNTech](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [Janssen](#)

The Alabama Department of Public Health offers a COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Support website at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/covid-vaccine-administration.html>.

Medicaid providers with billing questions may contact the Gainwell Technology Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989.

**For Pharmacy Providers:**

Alabama Medicaid allows vaccine administration fee reimbursement to Medicaid participating providers for federally allocated COVID-19 vaccines. Pharmacies may bill vaccines through an electronic NCPDP claim.



- Submit \$0.00 or \$0.01 for vaccine provided at no cost from the federal government.
- Submit each vaccine with the specific approved vaccine NDC for an eligible recipient.
- Submit the administration fee in the “Incentive Amount Submitted” field (NCPDP Field 438-E3) on the same claim as the vaccine (i.e., ingredient).
- Medicaid allows for vaccine/administration with an effective date on/after December 28, 2020.
- For claims on/after March 15, 2021, the administration fee is \$40.00 per dose.
- Vaccines must be administered according to approved labeling for appropriate ages and dosing interval.



## NCPDP CODES AND ALLOWED AMOUNTS FOR COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

|                             | Submission Clarification Code (440-E5) | Incentive Amount (Administration Fee 438-E3) | Ingredient Cost (409-D9) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Two-Dose Vaccines</b>    |  |  |                          |
| First Dose                  |  | \$ 40  | \$0.00 or \$0.01         |
| Second Dose                 |  | \$ 40  | \$0.00 or \$0.01         |
| <b>Single-Dose Vaccines</b> |  |  |                          |
| Single Dose                 |  | \$ 40  | \$0.00 or \$0.01         |

Alabama Medicaid allows reimbursement to pharmacies for a vaccine administration fee to Medicaid providers who utilize federally allocated COVID-19 vaccines. For claims effective March 15, 2021 and after, the reimbursement rate for the administration fee is \$40.00 per dose, and will continue only during that time as described by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that provides for increased FMAP for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine unless ended sooner by the Agency in a subsequent ALERT.

- Per the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, either the Pharmacy or the Pharmacist NPI may be submitted on claims for COVID-19 vaccines only.
- Claims for administration of COVID-19 vaccines with the Pharmacy or Pharmacist NPI submitted in the prescriber field should be submitted with a **Submission Clarification Code (SCC) of 42** indicating that the prescriber ID submitted is valid and prescribing requirements have been validated.
- Pharmacies must follow state and federal laws and regulations regarding administration of vaccines.

State and federal standing order guidelines for products granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) must be followed. Standing order guidelines may be found at the links below:

- Moderna: [Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- Pfizer/BioNTech: [Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- Janssen: [Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Pharmacy providers with questions regarding vaccine administration may call the Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050.





# Alabama Medicaid Bulletin

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oak Brook, IL  
Permit No. 100

Post Office Box 244032  
Montgomery, AL 36124-4032



The release of funds is normally the second Monday after the checkwrite (remittance advice) date.  
Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. As always, the release of direct deposit and checks depends on the availability of funds.

## CHECK WRITE SCHEDULE REMINDER:

- October 2, 2020
- October 16, 2020
- November 6, 2020
- November 13, 2020
- December 4, 2020
- December 11, 2020
- January 1, 2021
- January 22, 2021
- February 5, 2021
- February 19, 2021
- March 5, 2021
- March 19, 2021
- April 2, 2021
- April 16, 2021
- May 7, 2021
- May 21, 2021
- June 4, 2021
- June 18, 2021
- July 9, 2021
- July 23, 2021
- August 6, 2021
- August 20, 2021
- September 3, 2021
- September 10, 2021