



Alabama Medicaid Pharmacist

Published Quarterly by Health Information Designs, Summer 2021

A Service of Alabama Medicaid

PDL Update

Effective July 1, 2021, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions
Ajovy*—CGRP Antagonists
Avonex—Immunomodulatory Agents
Tecfidera—Immunomodulatory Agents
Tobramycin Inhalation Solution (generic Tobi)—Aminoglycosides
PDL Deletions
Aubagio—Immunomodulatory Agents
Bacitracin for Injection (generic)—Antibacterials, Miscellaneous
Bevespi—Respiratory Beta Agonists
Gilenya—Immunomodulatory Agents
Vyvanse Chewable Tablet—ADHD
Xifaxan—Antibacterials, Miscellaneous

* Preferred with Clinical Criteria

Inside This Issue

PDL Update	Page 1
COVID-19 Updates	Page 2
Vaccine Administration Guidance	Page 3
AL Medicaid Policy Reminder	Page 4
National Prescription Drug Take Back Day	Page 4
July 1st PDL Updates	Page 5

Please fax all prior authorization and override requests *directly* to Health Information Designs at 800-748-0116. If you have questions, please call 800-748-0130 to speak with a call center representative.



Information on Billing for Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines (for Non-Pharmacy Providers)

Effective May 10, 2021, the Alabama Medicaid Agency covers the following procedure codes for the administration of the Pfizer vaccine for recipients 12 years of age and older.

Administration CPT Code	Short Description
0001A	1st dose, 30mcg/0.3mL
0002A	2nd dose, 30mcg/0.3mL

Medicaid enrolled providers should not bill for the vaccine if using federally allocated vaccines.

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.

Providers with billing questions should contact the Gainwell Technology Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989.

COVID-19 Emergency Expiration Date Extended to July 31, 2021

All previously published expiration dates related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency are once again extended by the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid). **The new expiration date is the earlier of July 31, 2021, the conclusion of the COVID-19 National emergency, or any expiration date noticed by the Alabama Medicaid Agency through a subsequent ALERT.**

A listing of previous Provider ALERT and notices related to the health emergency is available by selecting the Agency's COVID-19 page in the link below: https://medicaid.alabama.gov/news_detail.aspx?ID=13729.

During the COVID-19 emergency, it is important to file claims as quickly as possible to ensure payment from Medicaid is made to Medicaid providers close to the date of service. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has increased the federal matching percentage for the emergency time frame, but states can only receive the increased match on claims that are paid during the emergency. Providers should include appropriate COVID-19 diagnosis code(s) on claims submitted to help with tracking of COVID-19.

Alabama Medicaid Vaccine Administration Information

Alabama Medicaid reimburses Medicaid-enrolled pharmacy providers for the administration of certain vaccines. Alabama Medicaid will also reimburse pharmacies for the vaccines (i.e. ingredient) that is administered.

Effective October 15, 2019, Alabama Medicaid changed how Medicaid-enrolled pharmacy providers submit claims for vaccine administration for eligible recipients age 19 and older. Claims for a vaccine and the administration of the vaccine will be submitted on the same claim.

Instructions for submitting a pharmacy claim for a vaccine with the administration fee:

- Pharmacies should submit a claim for the vaccine (i.e. ingredient) with the appropriate NDC.
- Pharmacies should submit the administration fee in the Incentive Amount Submitted field (NCPDP Field 438-E3) on the same claim as the vaccine (i.e. ingredient).
- A maximum reimbursement of \$5 will be allowed for each vaccine administration. Only one dispensing fee (for the ingredient) and copay will be applied to the claim.
- Reimbursement of administration fees will be allowed for the following vaccines:
 - Influenza vaccine—ages 19 and up
 - Pneumococcal vaccine—ages 19 and up
 - Tdap vaccine—ages 19 and up
 - Hepatitis A vaccine—ages 19 and up
 - Shingles vaccine—ages 50 and up
- A prescription is required for each vaccine and administration to be retained on file for documentation purposes.
- Claims for the administration fee only with no vaccine/ingredient will be denied.
- To facilitate coordination of care, Pharmacy providers are required to inform (via phone, fax, email, or mail) each recipient's Primary Medical Provider (PMP) upon administration of the vaccine(s) for which an administration claim is submitted. Documentation of the notification to the PMP must be kept on file at the pharmacy. If the PMP is unknown, the pharmacy may call the Alabama Medicaid Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) at 1-800-727-7848 to obtain the PMP information. A suggested Immunization Provider Notification Letter, can be used to notify the PMP, can be found on the Agency website at this [link](#).
- Alabama State Board of Pharmacy law and regulation should be followed regarding dispensing and administration of legend drugs/vaccines.

Policy Reminder—Quantity Limitations

Claims must be submitted in the units specified on the prescription by the prescribing physician up to a 34 day supply. Medications supplied in a dosage form that would prevent the dispensing of an exact 30-34 day supply for chronic medications, such as insulin, may require quantities that exceed the 34 day maximum and would not be subject to recoupment as long as the pharmacist can provide appropriate documentation.

Pharmacies may not split a prescription into small units and submit them as separate claims in order to obtain additional dispensing fees.

A pharmacist should not change quantities (units) of drugs prescribed by a physician except by authorization of the physician. The pharmacist must contact the prescribing physician for authorization to reduce the quantity of any Medicaid prescription and note physician authorization on the prescription form.

If the prescription to be paid by Medicaid exceeds the drug's maximum unit limit allowed per month, the prescriber or pharmacist must request an override for the prescribed quantity. If the override is denied, then the excess quantity above the maximum unit limit is non-covered and the recipient can be charged as a cash recipient for that amount in excess of the maximum unit limit. In other words, for a prescription to be "split billed" (the maximum unit allowed paid by Medicaid and the remainder paid by the patient), a maximum unit override must be requested by the provider and denied.

A prescriber **should not** write separate prescriptions, one to be paid by Medicaid and one to be paid as cash, to circumvent the override process. Note: A provider's failure or unwillingness to go through the process of obtaining an override does not constitute a non-covered service. For more information, this policy can be found in Chapter 27 of the Alabama Medicaid Provider Billing Manual: https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/Gated/7.6.1G_Provider_Manuals/7.6.1G_Provider%20Manuals/7.6.1G_Provider_Manuals/7.6.1.3G_July2020.aspx

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

On Saturday, April 24th, the DEA held its 20th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. There were 5,060 sites across the United States that participated in this initiative. Nearly 420 tons (839,543 pounds) of unused medications collected. The state of Alabama had 58 collection sites which brought in 5,100 pounds. Since the initiative began in September 2010, there have been 7,262 tons (14,524,391 pounds) of unused medications collected.

The next National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021. For more information on this initiative, please visit https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

July 1st Pharmacy Changes

To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physicians Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Mental Health Service Providers and Nursing Homes

Effective July 1, 2021, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

1. **Add pharmacy coverage for the shingles vaccine (Shingrix) for adults aged 50 and older.** An administration fee of \$5.00 will be allowed for each dose of shingles vaccine administered to covered recipients who meet the age requirements. Please refer to the Vaccine Billing Guidance for instruction on billing of the vaccine and the administration fee. Guidance can be found at: https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/4.0_Programs/4.3_Pharmacy-DME/4.3.11_Vaccine_Admin/4.3.11_Vaccine_Administration_Guidance_10-15-19.pdf.
2. **Remove Prior Authorization (PA) for rintonavir (generic Norvir).** Brand Norvir will remain covered without prior authorization and will no longer be allowed to be billed with a Dispense as Written (DAW) Code of 9.
3. **Update the PDL to reflect the quarterly updates.** The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions
Ajovy* —CGRP Antagonists
Avonex—Immunomodulatory Agents
Tecfidera—Immunomodulatory Agents
Combivent—Respiratory Beta Agonists
Tobramycin Inhalation Solution (generic Tobi)—Aminoglycosides
PDL Deletions
Aubagio—Immunomodulatory Agents
Bacitracin for Injection (generic)—Antibacterials, Miscellaneous
Bevespi—Respiratory Beta Agonists
Gilenya—Immunomodulatory Agents
Vyvanse Chewable Tablet—ADHD
Xifaxan—Antibacterials, Miscellaneous

*Preferred with Clinical Criteria

For additional PDL and coverage information, visit our drug look-up site at <https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/ALPortal/NDC%20Look%20Up/tabId/39/Default.aspx>.

The Prior Authorization (PA) request form and criteria booklet should be utilized by the prescriber or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. The PA request form can be completed and submitted electronically on the Agency's website at https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/9.0_Resources/9.4_Forms_Library/9.4.13_Pharmacy_Forms.aspx. Providers requesting Pas by mail or fax should send requests to:

Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P.O.Box 3210
Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130

Policy questions concerning provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding PA procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.