



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Physician Transmittal No. 152
FQHC Transmittal No. 18
Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 152
January 21, 2022

To: Physicians
 Nurse Practitioners
 Physician Assistants
 Federally Qualified Health Centers
 Local Health Departments
 Rural Health Centers
 Managed Care Organizations

From: Alexander Shekhdar, Acting Director *Alexander Shekhdar*
 Office of Medical Benefits Management

Subject: COVID-19 Counseling for Pediatric Patients

Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Effective January 1, 2022, Maryland Medicaid will reimburse physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants at the Fee-for-Service (FFS) reimbursement rate for preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) that are provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes, for counseling related to the benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. This service will be reimbursed when rendered in-person or via HIPAA-compliant telehealth delivery models. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Local Health Departments (LHDs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) may be reimbursed for this service if rendered by a qualified provider.

This benefit is available to Medicaid participants 20 years of age and under through the last day of the first quarter, beginning one year after the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Parents or guardians of Medicaid children, ages 5 through 20 years, may be counseled on the child's behalf regarding the benefit of their child receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. Providers should bill for this counseling using the child's Medical Assistance number. This service will only be reimbursed once per date of service; however, there is no limit to the number of times a participant can receive counseling.

For FQHCs and RHCs, this benefit will be reimbursed at the FFS rate when the sole purpose of the patient’s visit is for counseling related to COVID-19 vaccinations. If this service is performed during a somatic visit, the service will be considered to be part of that visit and reimbursed as part of the cost-based rate. FQHCs and RHCs should include the CR modifier with the appropriate trigger code.

Providers should use the following procedure code, modifier, and reimbursement rates for COVID-19 counseling of pediatric patients:

CPT Code	Description	Facility Rate	Non-Facility Rate
99401 with CR Modifier	COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling	\$26.10	\$42.41
Note: Providers should bill using the GT/UB modifiers, in addition to the CR modifier, when billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling rendered via HIPAA-compliant telehealth delivery models.			

Should you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact:

For professional service FFS questions - Christa Smith at christa.smith.maryland.gov

For FQHC, LHD or RHC questions - Earl Tucker at earl.tucker@maryland.gov

For MCO questions - mdh.healthchoiceprovider@maryland.gov