

# Memorandum

**To:** Medicaid dental providers

**From:** Jessica Dusek, Medicaid Dental Policy Analyst

**Date:** Nov. 21, 2025

**Subject:** Fee-for-service billing criteria for immunization counseling, effective Jan. 1, 2026

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Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reimburses Immunization Counseling (D1301) as a service to educate patients on the importance of immunizations in preventing oral and systemic diseases. This counseling is essential to mitigate the risk of disease transmission and to maintain overall oral health, particularly in immunocompromised patients or those at high risk for specific infections. OHA allows reimbursement for D1301 only when the immunization is **not** administered on the same date of service.

## Who can bill for D1301?

Licensed dental providers eligible to bill for D1301 are Dentists, Dental Therapists, and Dental Hygienists.

## What are the criteria for billing?

### 1) ALERT IIS Registration:

Register with the [ALERT Immunization Information System \(IIS\)](#) at a minimum as a query user. “Query-Only” user access allows providers to look up members’ immunization status.

## 2) Necessity criterion:

Immunization Counseling (D1301) is reimbursable only when the patient's ALERT IIS record indicates they are not up to date on one or more vaccinations recommended for their age or risk profile. OHA may conduct audits of ALERT IIS to ensure the system is being accessed and utilized in compliance with program requirements.

## 3) Maintain knowledge of immunization protocols, including:

- Recommended vaccine schedules
- Risks, benefits, contraindications, and potential adverse effects
- Communication strategies for addressing patient or caregiver concerns
- Referral processes and locations where patients may receive vaccines

## What does providing immunization counseling involve?

- Providing a face-to-face discussion with the patient or caregiver.
- Reviewing the patient's immunization status using available records in the ALERT Immunization Information System (IIS).
- Educating the patient or caregiver on the benefits and risks of vaccines in preventing oral and systemic diseases.
- Addressing questions and concerns to support informed decision-making.
- Providing guidance on how and where to receive recommended vaccines or providing a referral for vaccination.
- Documenting in the patient's record a summary of topics discussed to reflect the substance of the counseling session. Generic templates or note shortcuts are not sufficient.

## Referrals and follow-up

**Dentists** meeting requirements under ORS 679.552 may prescribe and administer vaccines. Dentists who have not met these requirements must refer the patient to an authorized provider for vaccine administration.

**Dental Therapists** and **Dental Hygienists** are not permitted to prescribe or administer vaccines under ORS 679.552. They must refer the patient to an authorized provider for vaccine administration.

Providers are encouraged to follow up at the patient's next preventive appointment to confirm vaccine completion.

## Additional information

The [OHA Immunization Provider Information For Dentists](#) web page provides best practices, educational resources, and additional information.

Visit the [OHP Fee-for-Services Fee Schedule](#) page to find reimbursement rates for covered services.

OHP provider guidance with claims and helpful billing resources are found by visiting the [Resources for Providers](#) website.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, please email [Medicaid.Programs@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:Medicaid.Programs@odhsoha.oregon.gov).