

Billing Health Plans in Public Clinics Standards

Purpose: To standardize and assist in improving immunization billing practice

For the purpose of this document, Local Health Department (LHD) will be used to identify the vaccine provider.

Guiding Principles / Assumptions:

1. LHDs should be assessing immunization coverage in their respective communities, assuring that vaccine is accessible to all across the lifespan, and billing appropriately for vaccine provided by the LHD.
2. Health plans should reimburse LHDs for the covered services of their members, with vaccine costs reimbursed at 100%.
3. LHDs who serve insured individuals should work to develop immunization billing capacity that covers the cost of providing services to those clients (e.g., develop agreements or contracts with health plans, when appropriate, set up procedures to screen clients appropriately, and bill an administration fee that reflects the true cost of services.)
4. Oregon Immunization Program (OIP) staff and contractors will work with LHDs and health plans to improve contracting/agreement opportunities and billing processes.
5. Each LHD is uniquely positioned to determine the best methods of meeting both the immunization needs of its community and how to recover the costs of providing services.
6. OIP will work with appropriate CLHO committees to add the standards to Program Element 43 and negotiate the Tier One implementation date.
7. The billing standards are designed as tiers, with Tier One activities laying the foundation for more advanced billing capacity in Tiers Two and Three.

Tier One

The LHD:

- Identifies staff responsible for billing and contracting activities
- Identifies major health insurance plans in the jurisdiction, including those most frequently carried by LHD clients
- Determines an administration fee for Billable clients based on the full cost recovery of services provided and documents how fees were determined
- Charges the maximum allowable vaccine administration fee¹ for all eligible VFC/317 clients and discounts the fee for eligible clients as needed
- Develops immunization billing policies and procedures that address:
 - Strategies to manage clients who are not eligible for VFC or 317 and are unable to meet the cost of immunizations provided
 - The actual cost of administration fees and the adjustments made, if any, to administration fees based on payor, patient age, and/or vaccine eligibility code
 - The purchasing of privately owned vaccine and how fees are set for vaccine charges to the client
 - The appropriate charge for vaccine purchased from OIP, by including a statement that says, “We will not charge more than the OIP-published price for billable vaccine.”
 - Billing processes based on payor type (DMAP/CCOs, private insurance, etc.), patient age, and vaccine eligibility code
 - The appropriate billing procedures for Medicaid-covered adults²
 - The appropriate billing procedures for Medicaid-covered children birth through 18 years³
 - Is updated annually or as changes occur
- With certain limited exceptions as published in vaccine eligibility charts, uses no federally funded vaccine on insured clients, including adult Medicaid and all Medicare clients⁴
- Implementation shall be completed by December 31, 2014.

Tier Two

In addition to all Tier 1 activities, the LHD:

- As needed, considers developing contracts or other appropriate agreements with relevant payors to assure access to immunization services for insured members of the community
- Fulfills credentialing requirements of contracts/agreements
- Bills private and public health plans directly for immunization services, when feasible, rather than collecting fees from the client and having them submit for reimbursement
- Screens immunization clients to determine amount owed for service at all LHD clinics, including those held offsite
- Devises a plan to implement results of administration fee cost analysis

¹ This fee is determined by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for each state

² Uses vaccine eligibility code B for Billable (or L if Locally-owned) and bills DMAP/CCOs for the vaccine and an administration fee that reflects the actual cost of providing immunizations

³ Uses vaccine eligibility code M for OHP/Medicaid clients and bills DMAP/CCOs an administration fee that does not exceed the CMS allowed amount for the State of Oregon, \$21.96 per injection

⁴ Insured clients should be assigned a vaccine eligibility code of B or L

Tier Three

In addition to all Tier 1 and Tier 2 activities, the LHD:

- Conducts regular quality assurance measures to ensure costs related to LHD's immunization services are being covered
- Implements administration charges based on results of the administration fee cost analysis
- Works to assure access to immunizations for Medicare-eligible members of the community and, if access is poor, provides Medicare Part B and/or Part D vaccines, as needed, and bills appropriately to cover the cost