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## ***PROVIDER UPDATE***

***November 2020***  
***#2020-39***

To: IMCare Providers  
From: Sarah Duell, IMCare Director  
Date: November 17, 2020  
RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Information

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In preparation for the release of a COVID-19 vaccine, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed COVID-19 vaccine toolkits for insurers, providers, and Medicare beneficiaries to convey critical information in one central location. These toolkits will be updated as more information becomes available.

The toolkits and more information can be found on the CMS [COVID-19 Vaccine Policies & Guidance](#) web page.

In addition, CMS released the following memo regarding coverage and payment for COVID-19 vaccination:

*Section 3713 of the CARES Act established Medicare Part B coverage and payment for the COVID-19 vaccine and its administration. Section 1852(a)(5) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR § 422.109 provide that if the projected cost of a National Coverage Determination or a legislative change in benefits meets a significant cost threshold, coverage of the new benefit for beneficiaries enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan will be provided through the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) program until the MA capitation rates take the new significant cost into account. Based on current information and projections, CMS has determined that the legislative change in benefits to add Part B coverage of a COVID-19 vaccine and its administration meets the significant cost threshold.*

*The MA capitation rates for contract years 2020 and 2021 do not take into account the projected cost for a COVID-19 vaccine or its administration. Therefore, given the significant cost determination, Medicare payment for COVID vaccinations administered during calendar years 2020 and 2021 to MA beneficiaries will be made through the Medicare FFS program. Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in MA plans will be able to access the COVID-19 vaccine, without cost sharing, at any FFS provider or supplier that participates in Medicare and is eligible to bill under Part B for vaccine administration, including those enrolled in Medicare as a mass immunizer or a physician, non-physician practitioner, hospital, clinic, or group practice. **MA organizations should inform their contracted providers about this coverage policy***

***and direct them to submit claims for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to the CMS Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for payment.***

Information is changing rapidly, please continue to monitor provider updates and our website for the most accurate, up to date information. If you have questions, please reach out or encourage members to reach out, to our call center at 218-327-6188, toll-free at 1-800-843-9536 or email [imcare.office@co.itasca.mn.us](mailto:imcare.office@co.itasca.mn.us).