



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2022-09

Provider Bulletin 2022-12
February 2022

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: Retroactive to April 1, 2021
Contacts: see below

TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Certified Nurse Midwives, Medical Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Outpatient Hospitals, General and Pediatric Dentists, and Hygienists

RE: CMAP COVID-19 Response Bulletin 58: COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling-Only for Pediatric Members

Effective for dates of service retroactive to April 21, 2021 and through the last day of the first quarter that begins one year after the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, as required by guidance from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) based on CMS' interpretation of section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Public Law 117-2, the Department of Social Services (DSS) will reimburse for COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits for HUSKY Health members under the age of 21 as part of the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services benefit while the COVID-19 vaccine administration provisions added by section 9811 of ARPA remain in effect.

Billing and Reimbursement Guidance

The following coding should be used to bill for COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits when counseling is provided to HUSKY A, B, C, and D members under the age of 21 or to their parents, guardians, or caretakers (for counseling with respect to vaccination for the child).

Code	Description	Modifier
99401	Preventive counseling indiv	SC (Medically necessary service)

Providers must bill with modifier SC so that the Department of Social Services can accurately report COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Physicians, Physician Assistants (PAs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), Medical Clinics, General Dentists, Pediatric Dentists, and Hygienists are eligible for reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits. Medical Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Outpatient Hospitals should refer to the section below.

Except for enrolled dentists and hygienists, existing Medicaid reimbursement for procedure code 99401 for each provider category will apply to COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits (including the HUSKY Health Primary Care Rates for providers who qualify). Each provider must refer to their applicable fee schedule for the reimbursement rates for procedure code 99401.

Enrolled general and pediatric dentists and hygienists will be eligible to receive \$24.66 when billing 99401 (Preventive counseling indiv) with modifier SC (medically necessary service) for COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits.

When COVID-19 counseling for a HUSKY Health member under the age of 21 is provided to the parent, guardian or caretaker, the service must be billed under the child's HUSKY Health

identification number since the counseling is specific to vaccination of the child.

Providers may bill for multiple dates of service corresponding to documented COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits. Separate reimbursement for a counseling-only visit is eligible only when counseling is provided, and **not** when COVID-19 vaccine administration is performed during the same visit. When a vaccine counseling-only visit is billed on the same date of service as another evaluation and management service, such as a well-child visit or a sick visit modifier 25 must be appended to the detail to prevent the detail from denying.

For all providers eligible to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, when counseling is provided during the same visit as the administration of the vaccine, the current COVID-19 vaccine administration rate includes all necessary counseling and education. Therefore, the counseling is not eligible for separate reimbursement when it is performed with the COVID-19 vaccination.

Medical Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits for HUSKY Health members under the age of 21 will continue to be reimbursed as part of the overall encounter visit when other services are rendered during the same visit. If the encounter is solely for COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only, the FQHC is eligible to receive their encounter rate for such visit and must bill with the procedure code and modifier as specified above in addition to the procedure code for the encounter (T1015).

Outpatient Hospitals

COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visits are considered professional services only and the hospital will not receive separate or additional reimbursement for procedure code 99401. Hospitals are eligible to bill a clinic visit (G0463: Hospital outpatient clinic visit for assessment and management of a patient) when COVID-19 counseling-only services are

rendered in the outpatient hospital setting. The physician, physician assistant, APRN or CNM will bill procedure code 99401 with modifier SC for COVID vaccine counseling-only visits.

Accessing Fee Schedules

The updated fee schedules can be accessed and downloaded by accessing the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) Web site: www.ctdssmap.com. From this Web page, go to "Provider", then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download". Click on the "I accept" button and proceed to click on the appropriate fee schedule. To access the CSV file, click the CSV link, then select "Open file".

Accessing CMAP Addendum B (Outpatient Hospitals)

CMAP's Addendum B for outpatient hospital services can be accessed via the www.ctdssmap.com Web site by selecting the "Hospital Modernization" Web page. CMAP's Addendum B (Excel) is located under "Important Messages – Connecticut Hospital Modernization".

Questions: For questions about billing or if further assistance is needed to access the fee schedules on the CMAP Web site, please contact the Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

Posting Instructions: Policy transmittals and the COVID-19 Information and FAQs can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the CMAP by Gainwell Technologies.

Responsible Unit:

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