

INFOGRAPHIC

Prenatal Vaccines in Medicaid and CHIP: Coverage, Reimbursement, and State Policy Solutions to Increase Access

Prenatal vaccines provide important protection against communicable diseases for pregnant women¹ and their newborns. Although most forms of public and private health insurance cover prenatal vaccines without cost sharing, most pregnant women don't receive both federally recommended prenatal vaccines (influenza and Tdap).



Fewer than 1 out of 4 pregnant women receive both federally recommended prenatal vaccines.

Source: CDC 2023.

There are currently two prenatal vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices: the influenza vaccine and the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.² In addition, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review is underway for a prenatal vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

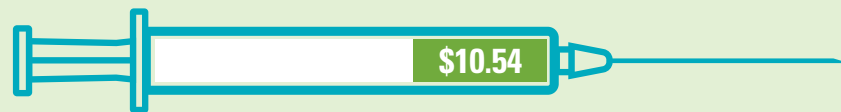
Prenatal vaccination rates are lower among people covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) than among people with private health insurance.³ These disparities may reflect differences in access to vaccine providers and inadequate provider reimbursement for the costs of acquiring and administering vaccines.⁴

Key findings from a survey of state policies on prenatal vaccines in Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service:

Physicians

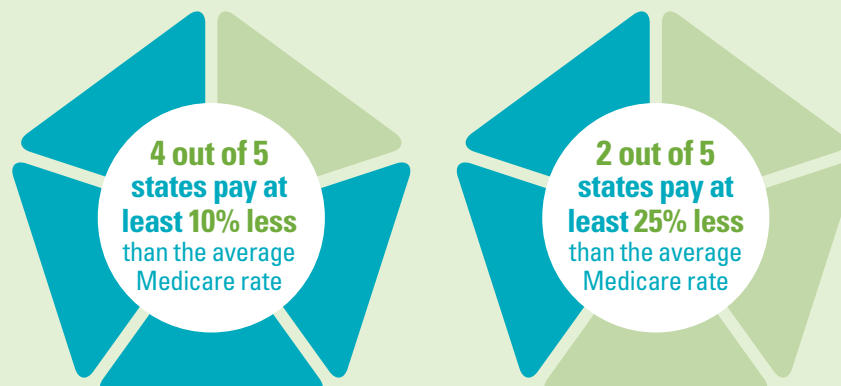


For adult recipients, the average physician vaccine administration fee was **\$10.54**, or **33%** of the national Medicare Part B rate for administering influenza vaccine (**\$30**).



Medicaid vs. Medicare Comparison

When comparing total reimbursement for Tdap vaccinations (product + administration)...



Other Health Care Practitioners



Most states pay the same rate for vaccine administration by a **physician** or a **nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse midwife**.

For **pharmacists**, most states pay either the same or a higher vaccine administration fee as compared with physicians and may apply a different reimbursement methodology for the vaccine product.



Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)



Fewer than 1 out of 3 states reimburse FQHCs for vaccinations separate from the fixed rate for each medical visit under the FQHC Prospective Payment System (PPS).



Strategies that states could consider to improve access to prenatal vaccines for Medicaid and CHIP enrollees:

- Ensure adequate reimbursement for prenatal vaccinations**, including the service of vaccine administration as well as vaccine supply, across all providers eligible to administer such vaccines.
- With respect to the **Vaccines for Children (VFC) program**, through which participating providers can receive vaccines free of charge for administration to Medicaid-enrolled youth under the age of 19:
 - ▶ Make all potential vaccinators (including pharmacists) eligible to participate in the VFC program
 - ▶ Ensure that pregnant youth are able to receive prenatal vaccines from obstetrician-gynecologists (OB/GYNs) who do not participate in VFC
- In states with managed care programs, **leverage managed care organizations (MCOs)** to enhance prenatal vaccine access by, for example, establishing requirements for provider reimbursement or member outreach and education, or by defining MCO incentives tied to prenatal vaccination.

Increasing reimbursement for vaccine administration can "increase provider participation and in turn improve access to vaccines for Medicaid beneficiaries."

Source: The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission's March 2022 Report to Congress



This research was conducted with support from Pfizer.

¹ Although this paper will generally refer to "pregnant women," the authors acknowledge that some pregnant individuals may not identify as women.

² CDC, *Guidelines for Vaccinating Pregnant Women*, (accessed January 25, 2023), <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/guidelines.html>.

³ CDC, *Flu, Tdap, and COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women – United States, April 2022*, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/pregnant-women-apr2022.htm>; CDC, *Influenza and Tdap Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women – United States, April 2020* (October 2, 2020), <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6939a2.htm>.

⁴ The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), *Vaccine Access for Adults Enrolled in Medicaid*, Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, 24-49 (March 2022), <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-2-Vaccine-Access-for-Adults-Enrolled-in-Medicaid.pdf>.

For More Information:



Helen Pfister
Partner
Manatt Health
212.830.7277
hpfister@manatt.com



Julian Polaris
Partner
Manatt Health
212.704.1980
jpolaris@manatt.com



Read the full white paper here.