

Commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines will affect billing, coding and payments

While the end of the federal Public Health Emergency did not have an effect on vaccine coverage or availability, it is anticipated that this fall the inventory of federally supplied COVID-19 vaccines will be exhausted. Once this occurs, COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be provided by the government at no cost and providers will be required to purchase their vaccine supply (i.e., commercialization).

For any government-supplied vaccine, Security Health Plan will continue to bundle the vaccine supply code and pay the administration code. Once commercialization begins to occur, Security will make payment on the vaccine supply code as well as the administration code.

There will be a transition period in which some providers will be administering commercialized vaccines and some using the remainder of their government-supplied vaccines. During the transition timeframe, Security is asking providers to bill according to the following guidelines:

- Government-purchased vaccines:
 - Security Health Plan does not currently require the vaccine supply code to be billed in conjunction with the administration code.
 - If billing the vaccine supply code, include billed amount of \$0.01 or \$0.00
 - Continue to bill the administration code at usual and customary charge.
- Commercially purchased vaccines:
 - Vaccine supply code billed at the usual and customary charge.
 - Associated administration charge is required on the same claim and is appropriately coded for the vaccine administered.
 - No administration charges will be reimbursed unless the corresponding vaccine supply code is billed.

If any new information about vaccine commercialization occurs Security Health Plan will provide information in future issues of Provider News.

At this time, there are no changes to the current billing processes.

For more information on how Security Health Plan covers COVID-19 vaccines visit <https://www.securityhealth.org/covid19/providers>.