



State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Global Commitment Register

February 16, 2023

GCR 23-027
PROPOSED

COVID-19 Vaccines, Testing, and Treatment

Policy Summary:

Vermont Medicaid is submitting a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services assuring that COVID-19 vaccine and administration, testing, and treatment benefits are covered without cost sharing.

Medicaid members will not incur copays for services, drugs, testing, and vaccines, related to the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 during the American Rescue Plan Act coverage period. This remains in place until the end last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency declaration. This is anticipated to be September 30, 2024. Vermont Medicaid will maintain coverage of COVID-19 services as medically necessary following the end of the mandatory coverage period.

Vermont Medicaid complies with all of the Health and Human Services COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act provisions. This includes authorization for pharmacists and other practitioners to administer COVID-19 vaccines during the PREP Act authorization period.

Payment for COVID-19 vaccine administration is set at \$40 to align with Medicare rates.

This will be submitted to CMS as SPA # 23-0013 and applies to the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the New Adult Group. The ABP replicates the full Medicaid State Plan and includes the 10 essential health benefits required under the Affordable Care Act, as well as the full range of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for individuals under the age of 21.

Effective Date:

These changes are retroactive to March 11, 2021

Authority/Legal Basis:

[American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)

[Section 319 of the Public Health Service \(PHS\) Act -COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration.](#)

[Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#)

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#)

This change is being done through Global Commitment to Health waiver authority, where DVHA may establish rates with providers on an individual or class basis without regard to the rates currently set forth in the approved State Plan.

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #6.8.

Population Affected:

All Medicaid

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$0.

Public Comment Period:

February 16, 2023 – March 17, 2023

Send comments to:

Medicaid Policy Unit
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Or submit via e-mail to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

Additional Information:

The draft SPA provides additional details on the proposed changes; copies of the draft SPA can be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) at (802) 355-8843, or can be found on the [Agency of Human Services website](#).