



THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER

Flu Vaccine Update

According to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC), routine vaccination is an essential preventive care service for children, adolescents, and adults (including pregnant individuals) that should not be delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications.

The CDC recognizes that stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders have resulted in declines in outpatient visits and fewer vaccine doses being administered. Therefore, they have developed guidance for the administration of vaccines at places such as pharmacies; temporary, off-site, or satellite clinics; and large-scale influenza vaccination clinics.

As of August 24, 2020, qualified pharmacy personnel in Massachusetts are allowed to vaccinate children as young as three years old. This may vary from location to location as pharmacies are still allowed to set their own age limit.

MassHealth reimburses pharmacies for the administration of flu vaccines. All MassHealth members are eligible to receive flu vaccines regardless of coverage type (except where MassHealth pays only for premium assistance for members with other health insurance). Coverage of flu vaccines for MassHealth members enrolled in managed care organizations (MCOs), accountable care partnership plans (ACPPs), One Care plans, and Senior Care Organizations (SCOs) will be paid through the applicable managed care plan. Coverage of flu vaccines for MassHealth members enrolled in the Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) will be paid through the PACE Organization. Providers should use the MassHealth Eligibility Verification System (EVS) to check member eligibility and managed care enrollment.

Vaccinations must be administered by properly trained and certified pharmacists and other health care professionals in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations at 105

CMR 700.000 and guidance for Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act coverage issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Upon vaccination, pharmacies must provide information to the member's primary care clinician for the administration of flu vaccine. This information must include the following.

- member name and date of birth
- vaccine name, quantity, and lot number
- injection site of administration
- date of administration

Pharmacies may bill for vaccine administration through the Pharmacy Online Processing System (POPS) for only the following flu vaccines: Afluria, Flud, Fluarix, Flublok, Flucelvax, Flulaval, Flumist, Fluzone, and Fluzone high dose (HD).

All vaccines can be billed without PA with the exception of Flud and Fluzone HD for members <65 years of age. All of the vaccines listed above that MassHealth pays for are listed on the CDC's U.S. Influenza Vaccine Products for the 2020-21 Season list.

For more information about serums, toxoids, and vaccines, you can visit the MassHealth website (<https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pubtheradetail.do?id=32>).

CAR-T Monitoring Program

Over the past few years, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) immunotherapies have come to market and provided new therapeutic interventions to manage select refractory and difficult-to-treat cancers. There is a multi-step process before CAR-T cell immunotherapies can be administered. Initially, the patient's blood must be extracted so that autologous T cells can be isolated and reprogrammed with the CAR. Once this step is completed, the reprogrammed T cells are exponentially multiplied before being reinfused into the patient. The most significant adverse effects

seen with CAR-T immunotherapies include cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and neurological toxicities. Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel), Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel), and Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) are listed on the Acute Hospital Carve-Out Drugs List and they are available only through a health care professional who administers these drugs. MassHealth does not pay for these drugs to be dispensed through a retail pharmacy.

MassHealth Drug Utilization Review has a CAR-T Monitoring Program that was initially set in place to monitor and understand the real-world treatment outcomes for MassHealth members. After the initial review and approval of a CAR-T agent, there are additional monitoring and billing requirements. Approximately 30 days after the infusion date and at ongoing intervals, follow-up occurs to verify the clinical effectiveness and sustained response to the agent. For long-term monitoring of CAR-T therapies (one year after the actual infusion date and annually thereafter), MassHealth will request medical records from the treatment hospital and follow up with providers to evaluate outcomes.

The CAR-T Monitoring Program tracks all approved requests for Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel), Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel), and Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel). The indications for these products are summarized as follows.

- Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel) is indicated in the treatment of patients ≤25 years of age with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia that is refractory or in second or later relapse, and for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise

specified (NOS), high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma (FL).

- Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel) is indicated in the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma (MCL).
- Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel) is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including DLBCL NOS, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from FL.

For more information about CAR-T immunotherapies, you can visit the MassHealth website at

<https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pub/theradetail.do?id=353> or

<https://masshealthdruglist.ehs.state.ma.us/MHDL/pub/downloadpdfcurrent.do?id=5670>.

Days' Supply Limitations for Drugs Used for Family Planning

Despite the requirements of 130 CMR 406.411(D)(1): *Days' Supply Limitation*, pharmacies may dispense up to a 365-day supply of drugs used for family planning if requested by a MassHealth member or that member's prescriber as long as sufficient quantity remains on the prescription to support the quantity being filled. MassHealth anticipates extending this requirement permanently consistent with the amendments to 130 CMR 406.000: *Pharmacy Services* proposed on November 29, 2019, and currently pending final promulgation.