

Chapter 31

Immunizations & Vaccinations

NOTE: Please review the following detail for specific processes and expectations with South Country Health Alliance (South Country). South Country may vary from the MHCP Manual and Minnesota Department of Human Services Guidelines. For additional detail on this chapter, please go to the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Manual at [MHCP Provider Manual](#).

Billing Information – Please review the [South Country Provider Manual Chapter 4 Provider Billing](#) for general billing processes and procedures.

Immunizations are one of the best weapons against a number of serious diseases. Vaccination is a covered health care service for Minnesotans enrolled in South Country Health Alliance (South Country) or any other publicly funded Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

MHCP coordinates with the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) [Minnesota Vaccines for Children \(MnVFC\) program](#) to provide pediatric vaccines at no cost to providers. The MDH MnVFC Program is for recipients ages 0 through 18. As of Jan. 1, 2014, MDH no longer provides free vaccines for adults age 19 or older. However, South Country will continue to cover adult flu vaccines and other recommended vaccinations for adults. Providers cannot use MnVFC Program stock to bill South Country for adult vaccines.

Eligible Providers

The following enrolled South Country providers may bill for vaccines and toxoids and its administration:

- Certified family nurse practitioners;
- Certified pediatric nurse practitioners;
- Certified nurse-midwives;
- Child and teen checkups providers;
- Clinics;
- Community paramedics;
- Convenience clinics;
- Dental providers;
- Home health agencies;
- Outpatient and inpatient hospitals;
- Pharmacies;
- Physicians;
- Podiatrists;
- Public health clinics; and
- Public health nursing clinic providers.

- Additionally, the following providers are also eligible to provide vaccine counseling to members:
 - Hospice;
 - Indian health facility providers;
 - Optometrist;
 - Rehabilitation agency;
 - Renal dialysis free standing clinic; and
 - Rural health clinics.

All South Country Health Alliance (South Country) contracted providers who administer pediatric vaccines are required by [Minnesota Statutes](#) (256B.0625, subd. 39) to enroll in the MDH MnVFC program.

Covered Services

South Country covers the following services:

- Vaccines;
- Toxoids;
- Administration of vaccines and toxoids;
- Office visits associated with administering vaccinations when the appointment is not solely to administer vaccinations; and
- Vaccine counseling.

Noncovered Services

South Country does not cover the following services:

- Reimbursement for vaccines available from the MDH MnVFC Program;
- Reimbursement for vaccines under IEP services;
- Immunizations administered concurrently with services for the treatment of emergency medical conditions; and
- Reimbursement for vaccines obtained at no cost due to public health emergency.

Immunization and Vaccine Benefits Codes

- [Immunization and Vaccine Benefits Codes for Children](#): Provider must check availability and obtain immunization and vaccines from MnVFC for children ages 0-18 years first, before administering and purchasing on their own.
- [Immunization and Vaccine Benefits Codes](#) for Adults

Billing

South Country reimburses office visits associated with administering vaccinations when the visit is not solely to administer vaccines. Do not bill office visit if visit is solely to administer vaccines.

Claim lines deny when billing the following:

- A vaccine administration code is billed without a vaccine code.

- A vaccine code and vaccine administration code billed on separate claims.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccines

South Country covers seasonal flu vaccine once per flu season when administered by a qualified provider. Providers must obtain pediatric flu vaccines from the MDH MnVFC Vaccine Program when available. For information regarding the flu vaccine availability and distribution, contact MDH or refer to <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/index.html>

Billing for Vaccines

Submit all claims with a vaccine code and vaccine administration code, otherwise it will deny. Providers can also bill office visits when administering vaccinations if the visit was not solely to administer vaccines.

Billing for Child Vaccines

Some children’s vaccines and toxoids are not available through the MnVFC program. Providers should follow billing for adult vaccines protocol for these vaccines.

For vaccines obtained through the MnVFC Program:

The MnVFC program caps the administration fee you may charge at \$21.22 per dose (not per vaccine antigen). Refer to the Immunization Billing Guidance for MnVFC (PDF) for more information.

Refer to the following when billing for vaccines obtained through MnVFC:

- Use the 837P or 837I MN–ITS transaction;
- Enter the appropriate CPT vaccine code with the SL modifier and a \$0 charge;
- Enter the appropriate vaccine administration code (from the following table) on the same claim;
- Enter the administration charge (no more than \$21.22 per dose) for administering the vaccine; and
- Use the codes listed after “without counseling” when counseling is not provided.

CPT Administration Code	Vaccine Administration Description	Use With
With counseling		
90460	Immunization administration through any route with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; first or only component of each vaccine or toxoid administered.	Use 90461 for each additional vaccine or toxoid component (must be used together with code 90460 if two or more vaccines administered).

90480	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]) vaccine, single dose.	Use the administration of vaccine only for COVID-19 vaccines. If, you provide vaccine counseling on the day you also administer the COVID-19 vaccine, you may not report counseling separately since code 90480 is valued to include counseling. Do not report in conjunction with non-COVID-19 90476-90759 vaccines, toxoids.
96380	Respiratory syncytial virus, monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose; 0.5 ml dosage, for intramuscular use	Use the administration of vaccine only for RSV vaccine for date of service on, or after, Jan. 1, 2024, with counseling if obtained through MnVFC.
Without counseling		
90471	Percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections- 1 single or combination vaccine or toxoid	Use 90472 for each additional vaccine or toxoid, single or combination (must be used together with code 90471 if two or more vaccines administered).
90473	Intranasal or oral immunization administration- 1 single or combination vaccine or toxoid	Use 90474 for each additional vaccine or toxoid, single or combination (must be used together with code 90473 if two or more vaccines administered).
96381	Respiratory syncytial virus, monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose; 1 ml dosage, for intramuscular use	Use the administration of vaccine only for RSV vaccine for date of service on, or after, Jan. 1, 2024, without counseling if obtained through MnVFC.
With or without counseling		
96372	Therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic injection (specify substance or drug); subcutaneous or intramuscular	Use the administration of vaccine only for RSV vaccine for dates of service from July 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023. Can be used with or without counseling if obtained through MnVFC.

Billing for Adult and Non MnVFC Vaccines

Bill for adult vaccines according to the following:

- Use the 837P or 837L.
- Enter the appropriate vaccine code and vaccine administration code on the same claim (from the following table).
- Do not enter modifier SL with the vaccine code.

- Enter the usual and customary vaccine charge and administration charge for administering the vaccine.
- Use the following codes when counseling is not provided and when administering vaccines and toxoids is not available through MnVFC.

CPT Administration Code	Vaccine Administration Description	Use With
90471	Percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections- 1 single or combination vaccine or toxoid	Use 90472 for each additional vaccine or toxoid, single or combination (must be used together with code 90471 if two or more vaccines administered) Do not use with 90473
90473	Intranasal or oral immunization administration- 1 single or combination vaccine or toxoid	Use 90474 for each additional vaccine or toxoid, single or combination (must be used together with code 90473 if two or more vaccines administered) Do not use with 90471
96372	Therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic injection (specify substance or drug); subcutaneous or intramuscular	Use the administration of vaccine only for RSV vaccines.
90480	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (sars-cov2) (coronavirus disease [covid-19]) vaccine, single dose	Use the administration of vaccine only for COVID-19 vaccines. If, you provide vaccine counseling on the day you also administer the COVID-19 vaccine, you may not report counseling separately since code 90480 is valued to include counseling Do not report in conjunction with non-COVID-19 90476-90759 vaccines, toxoids.
G0008	Administration of Influenza vaccine	Bill with: 90630, 90653, 90654, 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, 90672, 90673, 90674, 90682, 90685, 90686, 90687, 90688, Q2033, Q2034, Q2035, Q2036, Q2037, Q2038, Q2039 Use with: 90472, 90474
G0009	Administration of Pneumococcal vaccine	Bill with: 90669, 90670, 90732 Use with: 90472, 90474
G0010	Administration of Hepatitis B vaccine	Bill with: 90740, 90744, 90746, 90747 Use with: 90472, 90474

Billing for Vaccine Counseling

HCPCS Code	Vaccine Counseling Description	Modifiers
G0310	Immunization counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional when the vaccine is not administered on the same date of service, 5 to 15 minutes time. (This code is used for Medicaid billing purposes.)	
G0311	Immunization counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional when the vaccine is not administered on the same date of service, 16-30 minutes time. (This code is used for Medicaid billing purposes.)	
G0312	Immunization counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional when the vaccine is not administered on the same date of service for ages under 21, 5 to 15 minutes time. (This code is used for Medicaid billing purposes.)	
G0313	Immunization counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional when the vaccine is not administered on the same date of service for ages under 21, 16-30 minutes time. (This code is used for Medicaid billing purposes.)	
G0314	Immunization counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional for COVID-19 vaccines, ages under 21, 16-30 minutes time. (This code is used for the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Benefit (EPSDT).	Use modifier CR when counseling specifically for COVID-19.
G0315	Immunization counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional for COVID-19 vaccines, ages under 21, 5-15 minutes time. (This code is used for the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Benefit (EPSDT).	Use modifier CR when counseling specifically for COVID-19.

Bill only one counseling session for each member per day, but there is no limit to the number of times counseling may be provided to an individual.

Vaccines covered by Medicare

Some vaccines are covered under Medicare Part B and others under Part D. Members receiving vaccinations through their Medicare benefit must follow Medicare regulations. South Country members who choose to receive their Medicare Part D vaccination through a pharmacy must use a network pharmacy.

Medicare Part B covers the following immunizations: Hepatitis B vaccine (for patients at high or intermediate risk); Influenza virus vaccine; Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine; Covid-19 vaccine; and vaccines directly related to the **treatment** of an injury or direct **exposure** to a disease or condition. Providers must bill Medicare Part B directly for both the vaccine and its administration.

Medicare Part D covers some prescribed vaccines not available under Part B for preventative purposes when medically necessary. South Country offers Medicare Part D coverage to eligible

members. Medicare Part D eligible vaccines and administration costs must be billed to the member's Medicare part D benefit plan.

Claims for vaccines classified as Part D-eligible cannot be reimbursed through South Country's medical administration. Providers must go through the pharmacy benefit in accordance with Part D regulations.

Shingles and RSV Vaccines

For SeniorCare Complete and AbilityCare members the Shingrix and RSV vaccines are covered under their Medicare Part D benefit plan. South Country offers medical providers the following option for billing the Part D vaccines and administration:

- At the time of the clinic visit providers must assist the enrollee/patient with completing the [Medicare Part D Vaccine Claim Form](#) and referencing the [Medicare Part D Vaccine Billing Process](#)
- The [Medicare Part D Vaccine Claim Form](#) must be mailed or faxed directly to South Country at:

South Country Health Alliance Member Services
6380 West Frontage Road
Medford, MN 55049

Fax number: 1-507-431-6328

It is recommended that the provider and enrollee/patient keep a copy of the completed form for their records. Payment will be made directly to the provider's office.

For more information about Medicare Part D please visit:

- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo>

Additional Information

For more information about free vaccine availability from MDH through MnVFC program, please visit: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/index.html>

[For information on vaccinations covered by the member's pharmacy benefit, please see the South Country online drug lookup.](#)

Immunization and Vaccinations Resources:

- [CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Immunization Schedules;](#)
- [MHCP Provider Manual – Immunizations and Vaccinations Section;](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\) Immunization;](#)
- [Vaccine Information Statements in Multiple Languages;](#)
- [C&TC Immunizations and Review FACT Sheet; and](#)
- [Coding for COVID-19 Vaccine Shots | CMS.](#)