COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS

The Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid) has information available for providers regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA on the Agency website at https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.11_COVID-19_Vaccine_Providers.aspx.

Cost of the vaccines are covered by the federal government. Alabama Medicaid will allow reimbursement of a vaccine administration fee to Medicaid providers who utilize federally-allocated COVID-19 vaccines.

- Payment rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration will be $28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines
- For a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of two or more doses, the initial dose(s) administration payment rate will be $16.94, and $28.39 for the administration of the final dose in the series.
- These rates recognize the costs involved in administering the vaccine, including the additional resources involved with required public health reporting, conducting important outreach and patient education, and spending additional time with patients to answer any questions they may have about the vaccine.

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Pass It On!
Everyone needs to know the latest about Medicaid. Be sure to route this to:

☐ Office Manager
☐ Billing Dept.
☐ Medical/Clinical Professionals
☐ Other

The information contained within is subject to change. Please review your Provider Manual and all Provider Alerts for the most up-to-date information.
To receive, administer, and report COVID-19 vaccines, healthcare providers must enroll in the Alabama Department of Public Health’s (ADPH) ImmPRINT COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Follow the steps in the ImmPRINT Registration Roadmap to enroll.

The following agencies have additional resources related to COVID-19 vaccines:
  - Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

NOTE: Links to these sites are available on Medicaid’s COVID-19 Vaccine webpage:

ADPH offers COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Support at the following link:

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2021 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN CONTRACTS

ATTENTION: ALL PROVIDERS


Providers are encouraged to check Medicaid’s Eligibility Verification File under the Managed Care Section to determine if capitation payments have been made for recipients during a particular month. In the event that a capitation payment has not been made, providers should refer to Chapter 5 of the Provider Manual, Sections 5.6.1- 5.6.2, for claims filing instructions.

Questions may be directed to Shari Rudd at (334) 353-3403 or shari.rudd@medicaid.alabama.gov.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The Alabama Medicaid Agency, Montgomery Central Office, is seeking to fill a position of a Public Health Physician Director (40434). This is a Medical Director position and is responsible for providing clinical leadership and guidance to the Alabama Medicaid Agency in coordination with the Commissioner’s Office. This highly advanced professional, administrative, and medical position involves providing guidance in medical related services within the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Work involves providing assistance to agency officials in making determinations of level and quality of medical care provided to recipients by healthcare providers. Duties also include serving as medical consultant in the development and modification of healthcare policies and procedures, and the implementation of healthcare delivery systems statewide. Work is performed with a high degree of independent and professional judgment. This is a great opportunity for a physician who wants to provide clinical guidance in an office setting.

Competitive Benefits and Salary:

• Desirable work schedule
• 40-hour work week (typically Monday through Friday, 8:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.)
• Health Insurance Coverage (Medical, Dental and Vision)
• Paid time off (including state holidays, annual and sick time)

If you are interested in this position, please call the Alabama Medicaid Agency at (334) 242-5600 for more information.

MANAGED CARE

Importance of Updating Provider Enrollment Files

It is important that all Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN) providers (group and individual) maintain their provider enrollment files with the Fiscal Agent. This includes submitting accurate information regarding the provider specialties to the Fiscal Agent. Incorrect information about the provider specialties might cause delays in ACHN care coordination services for Medicaid recipients.
Attribution Report Timeline

The following table lists the timeframe in which attribution reports will be available via the secure web portal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribution Period</th>
<th>Attribution Run Month</th>
<th>Attribution Reports Available</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2021 - March 31,2021</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>First week of December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1, 2021 - June 30,2021</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
<td>First week of March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2021 - September 30,2021</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>First week of June 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2021 - December 31,2021</td>
<td>August 2021</td>
<td>First week of September 2021</td>
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For additional information about attribution reports, you may access Chapter 40 of the Provider Billing Manual at the following link: [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.6_Manuals.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.6_Manuals.aspx).

Alabama Coordinated Health Network Bonus Payments

All Primary Care Physician (PCP) groups, including FQHCs and RHCs, who actively participate with the ACHN entities qualify to receive bonus payments. The next quarterly bonus payments will be issued on the second checkwrite of January 2021.

A bonus pool has been established in the amount of $15 million annually to fund three (3) bonus payments for eligible participating PCP groups. The bonus payment pool is allotted as follows:

- 50% for Quality
- 45% for Cost Effectiveness
- 5% for PCMH Recognition
### ACHN PCP BONUS PAYMENT TIMELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Timeline Model for Initial Calculated Payment</th>
<th>Fall 2019</th>
<th>Winter 2020</th>
<th>Spring 2020</th>
<th>Summer 2020</th>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
<th>Winter 2021</th>
<th>Spring 2021</th>
<th>Summer 2021</th>
<th>Fall 2021</th>
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<td>Patient Attribution</td>
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</table>

#### Quality Bonus Payment: Beginning October 2021, the PCP group must achieve annual quality benchmarks determined by the Agency to earn a quality bonus payment. The quarterly payment made in October 2021 will be based on the actual quality measure performance calculated for the period between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

#### Cost Effectiveness Bonus Payment: Beginning January 2021, PCP groups will be eligible for a bonus payment if the PCP group meets or exceeds the cost effectiveness criteria established by the Agency. The quarterly payments made in January 2021 will be based on the actual cost effectiveness calculated for the period between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2020.

#### Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition Bonus Payment: The first PCP group PCMH bonus payment was made in October 2020 based on the actual PCMH recognition. The Agency will review attestation of PCMH recognition on an annual basis. **The deadline to qualify for FY 2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) PCMH bonus was September 1, 2020. The deadline to qualify for FY 2022 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) PCMH bonus will be October 1, 2021.** Refer to Chapter 40 of the Provider Billing Manual for detailed information regarding the PCMH attestation process.
Changes to the ACHN Bonus Payment Distribution

Beginning with the January 22, 2021 checkwrite, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will set aside funds from the annual ACHN bonus payment pool. The reserved funds will assist with the unforeseen situations that would cause the Agency to recoup and redistribute the bonus pool. The Agency will reserve a total of $400,000 from the annual $15 million bonus pool. This is equivalent to a reserve of $100,000 per quarter. If a PCP group(s) is inaccurately paid due to miscalculation(s) or inadvertently omitted from the bonus payment distribution, the Agency will use the reserve funds to pay the PCP group(s). In addition, if funds are recouped from a PCP group, the recouped amount will be added to the reserve funds. During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the Agency will distribute any remaining reserve funds to actively participating ACHN PCP groups.

NOTE: Because the reserve funds will go into effect during the second quarter, the Agency will reserve a total $300,000 for FY 2021. For subsequent years, the Agency will reserve the standard $400,000 annually.

For more information about the reserve funds, refer to the Changes to the Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN) Bonus Payment Distribution ALERT on the Medicaid website. Medicaid ALERTs: https://medicaid.alabama.gov/alerts.aspx.

Alabama Coordinated Health Network Provider Profiler Reports

Evaluation of quality and cost effectiveness will be necessary for a PCP group to manage their actual performance. It is important that the provider review the quarterly Provider Profiler to visualize how the provider is performing throughout the year. The Provider Profiler provides the PCP with a mechanism to monitor areas that may need improvement in order to achieve quality and cost effectiveness for a higher bonus payment. The Provider Profiler will be released quarterly. More information about the Provider Profiler can be found by visiting https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/5.0_Managed_Care/5.1_ACHN/5.1.5_ACHN_Quality_Measures.aspx.

The next Provider Profiler will be released towards the end of January 2021.
ACHN DHCP Referral Requirement

Please be advised that Medicaid recipients that are not assigned to an ACHN on the date of service will not require a DHCP referral from the ACHN for reimbursement.

GAINWELL TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Provider Representatives may be reached by dialing 1-855-523-9170 and entering the appropriate seven-digit extension.

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The release of funds is normally the second Monday after the checkwrite (remittance advice) date. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. As always, the release of direct deposit and checks depends on the availability of funds.

**CHECK WRITE SCHEDULE REMINDER:**

- October 2, 2020
- October 16, 2020
- November 6, 2020
- November 13, 2020
- December 4, 2020
- December 11, 2020
- January 1, 2021
- January 22, 2021
- February 5, 2021
- February 19, 2021
- March 5, 2021
- March 19, 2021
- April 2, 2021
- April 16, 2021
- May 7, 2021
- May 21, 2021
- June 4, 2021
- June 18, 2021
- July 9, 2021
- July 23, 2021
- August 6, 2021
- August 20, 2021
- September 3, 2021
- September 10, 2021