pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER
September 20, 2022	September 20, 2022	01-22-14, 08-22-15, 09-22-13, 10-22-05, 31-22-14, 33-22-12

SUBJECT	BY
Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for Beneficiaries Under 21	Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISe-Enrollment.aspx.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce that the Medical Assistance (MA) Program will cover vaccine counseling visits for MA beneficiaries under age 21 for vaccines provided through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit when no vaccines are administered.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, physician assistants, outpatient hospital-based clinics, independent medical/surgical clinics, and outpatient clinics enrolled in the MA Program who may administer vaccines for MA beneficiaries under the age 21 in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems. Providers rendering services in the managed care delivery system should address any payment related questions to the appropriate MA managed care organization.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT helps to ensure that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:
https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx.

specialty services. This includes the provision of recommended child and adolescent immunizations.

Section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 requires state Medicaid programs to cover COVID-19 vaccine administration without cost sharing. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) interprets the Medicaid EPSDT benefit to require states to cover visits in which a child under age 21 and/or their parent or caregiver is counseled about a vaccine, but the child does not receive the vaccine, such as when the child and/or their parent or caregiver does not provide consent.

On December 2, 2021, CMS announced that under their updated interpretation of the EPSDT provisions, state Medicaid programs must cover vaccine counseling visits when beneficiaries under age 21 and/or their parents or caregivers are counseled about any pediatric vaccines under EPSDT, but a pediatric vaccine under EPSDT is not administered (vaccine counseling only visits). https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-makes-100-federal-medicaid-matching-funds-available-state-expenditures. On May 12, 2022, CMS issued a State Health Official Letter providing more guidance on stand-alone vaccine counseling for beneficiaries under age 21. https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho22002.pdf.

Vaccine counseling, provided separately from the actual delivery of a vaccine, can help address parental concerns and misinformation, and allows parents or caregivers to ask questions and receive information concerning vaccines from their providers.

The coverage of vaccine counseling only visits will increase access to information from providers that will help caregivers make informed decisions concerning vaccinations for their child(ren).

Accordingly, the MA Program will cover, without cost-sharing, vaccine counseling about any pediatric vaccines under EPSDT provided to MA beneficiaries under age 21 and/or their parent or caregiver, but no pediatric vaccine is administered.

PROCEDURE:

MA providers in both the FFS and managed care delivery systems may bill for vaccine counseling only visits when MA beneficiaries under age 21 and/or their parent or caregiver, receive counseling about any pediatric vaccines covered under the EPSDT benefit from a qualified health care professional who is authorized to administer pediatric vaccines, but no pediatric vaccine is administered using the CPT code and modifier below.

Procedure Code and Modifier	Code Description	Fee
99401 (U1)	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	$10.00

NOTE: Provider type 10, specialty 100 (physician assistant) is included because physician assistants can be listed as the rendering provider pursuant to MA Bulletin 01-22-05, 08-22-05, 09-22-04, 10-22-01, 31-22-05, entitled "Billing Procedure Update for Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants." https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/FORMS%20AND%20PUBS%20OMAP/MAB2022010701.pdf.

Vaccine counseling only visits may be provided in addition to another service. However, MA Providers may not bill vaccine counseling only visits in addition to a complete EPSDT screen.

Vaccine counseling only visits may be provided in addition to a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine administration, or a COVD-19 vaccine counseling only visit. Billing procedures and instructions for providers delivering COVID-19 vaccine counseling only visits to MA beneficiaries under 21 are outlined in MA Bulletin 01-22-12, titled "COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for Beneficiaries Under 21".

The MA Program recognizes the role that a parent/caregiver plays in making informed health care decisions for their child(ren). As such, vaccine counseling only visits may be provided to MA beneficiaries under the age of 21 and/or their parent or caregiver when a vaccine is not administered and billed as a service provided to the MA beneficiary.

Additionally, vaccine counseling only visits may be provided via telemedicine with the use of Place of Service 02. For further information on MA Program guidelines for telemedicine see MA Bulletin 99-21-06, titled, "Guidelines for the Delivery of Physical Health Services via Telemedicine" at: https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Documents/FORMS%20AND%20PUBS%20OMAP/99-21-06.pdf.

ATTACHMENT:

Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for MA Beneficiaries Under the Age of 21

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Vaccine Counseling Only Visits for MA Beneficiaries Under the Age of 21

Procedure Code	Description	Provider Type	Specialty	Place of Service	Pricing Modifier	Info Modifier	MA Fee	Prior Auth	MA units	Limits
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	01	183	02, 22		U1	$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	08	082	02, 49		U1	$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	09	All	02, 11, 12		U1	$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	10	100	02, 11, 12		U1	$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	31	All	02, 11, 12		U1	$10.00	No	per visit	once per day
99401	Preventative medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual, up to 15 minutes	33	335	02, 11, 12		U1	$10.00	No	per visit	once per day