



Mpox Vaccine as a Medi-Cal Pharmacy Benefit

December 2, 2022

Effective for dates of service on or after August 17, 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will reimburse the administration of Mpox Vaccine as a pharmacy benefit when administered in accordance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval or authorization as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

On May 18, 2022, the United States confirmed its first case of Mpox, and the U.S. Federal Government declared Mpox a national public health emergency (PHE) on August 4, 2022. The CDC recommends vaccination for people who have been exposed to Mpox and people who may be more likely to get Mpox.

JYNNEOS™ (also known as Imvamune® or Imvanex®) is a vaccine that may be used for the prevention of the Mpox virus infection, although no data is available yet on its effectiveness in treating the current outbreak. JYNNEOS is licensed (or approved) by the FDA for subcutaneous injection for the prevention of the Mpox virus infection. In the context of the current national PHE, the standard regimen was authorized for people up to 18 years of age under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). An alternative regimen involving intradermal (ID) administration was also authorized for people 18 years of age and older to increase available JYNNEOS doses by up to five-fold. JYNNEOS is the primary vaccine being used during this Mpox outbreak.

Due to a limited supply, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is currently prioritizing the JYNNEOS Vaccine for individuals who are at high risk for the Mpox infection. For the most recent dose prioritization information or availability of additional doses and expansion of vaccination to a larger group, see the guidance from the CDPH on its [Mpox web page](#).

Additional guidance on Mpox can be found on both the [CDPH](#) and [CDC](#) websites.

Important Billing Instructions:

- Mpx Vaccine is a Medi-Cal benefit when administered in accordance with FDA approval/ authorization and CDC recommendations.
- Since the vaccine is supplied by the U.S. Federal Government free to pharmacy providers, pharmacy providers will not be reimbursed the ingredient cost or professional dispensing fee.
- A prior authorization (PA) is not required.
- DHCS will only reimburse the professional services associated with an immunization when a pharmacy provider submits a claim for reimbursement of the vaccine administration.
- DHCS will reimburse for the Mpx Vaccine administration at 100 percent of the corresponding Medicare rate for the same or similar service, effective August 17, 2022, through the end of the declared PHE.
 - To receive the professional services immunization administration fee, the pharmacy provider must identify on the claim that the pharmacy is administering the vaccine.
 - By populating the incentive fee, Incentive Amount Submitted (438-E3), field with a dollar amount and populating the following fields as outlined below:
 - Reason for Service Code (NCPDP field 439-E4): PH = Preventive Health Care
 - Professional Service Code (NCPDP field 440-E5): MA = Medication Administration
 - Result of Service Code (NCPDP field 441-E6): 3N = Medication Administration
- JYNNEOS is administered as 2 doses 28 days apart (a minimum of 24 days apart per CDC guidance). Claims must be submitted for each dose administered as described below:
 - NCPDP compliant claims:
 - First dose: Submission Clarification Code (SCC) = "2"
 - Second dose: Submission Clarification Code (SCC) = "6"
 - Non-NCPDP compliant paper forms:
 - First Dose: Fill Number value of "0"
 - Second Dose: Fill Number value of "1"
- DHCS will reimburse all eligible retroactive claims for dates of service on or after August 17, 2022.

Pharmacy providers must meet storage and recordkeeping requirements, including recording the administration of the vaccine to patients in their medical record system within 24 hours and to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) within 72 hours.

Pharmacy providers may bill for the dispensing of JYNNEOS Vaccine National Drug Code (NDC) using NCPDP D.0 claims, web, batch, and paper claims according to the table below:

NDC	Label Name	Generic Name	PA Required (Y or N)	Claim Quantity	Max Quantity
50632000101	JYNNEOS 0.5 ml vial	Smallpox and Mpox vaccine	N	0.5 ml (subcutaneous) OR 0.1 ml (intradermal)	0.5 ml

Product Availability

- JYNNEOS is currently available in the United States via the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).
- JYNNEOS is currently not available to pharmacy providers but is provided to states through CDC and SNS.
- At this time, the U.S. Federal Government has allocated a limited number of JYNNEOS Vaccine doses to Californians. CDPH is working with local health departments to make these doses available to protect against Mpox.
- Pharmacy providers may consult with their [local health services/offices](#) to identify available locations in the area that may have vaccines to administer.

For population of claim form fields other than those identified in this guidance, review the [Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual](#).

Any concerns regarding delay in reimbursement should not cause pharmacy providers to decline administering the vaccine to patients.

Contact Information

You can call the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

For other questions, email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.