

## INFOGRAPHIC

# Prenatal Vaccines in Medicaid and CHIP: Coverage, Reimbursement, and State Policy Solutions to Increase Access

**Prenatal vaccines provide important protection against communicable diseases for pregnant women<sup>1</sup> and their newborns.** Although most forms of public and private health insurance cover prenatal vaccines without cost sharing, most pregnant women don't receive both federally recommended prenatal vaccines (influenza and Tdap).



**Fewer than 1 out of 4 pregnant women receive both federally recommended prenatal vaccines.**

Source: CDC 2023.

There are currently two prenatal vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices: the influenza vaccine and the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.<sup>2</sup> In addition, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review is underway for a prenatal vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

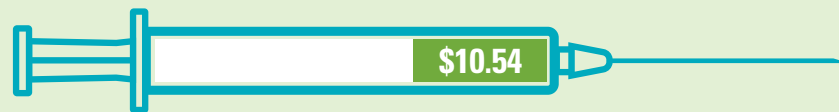
**Prenatal vaccination rates are lower among people covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) than among people with private health insurance.<sup>3</sup> These disparities may reflect differences in access to vaccine providers and inadequate provider reimbursement for the costs of acquiring and administering vaccines.<sup>4</sup>**

## Key findings from a survey of state policies on prenatal vaccines in Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service:

### Physicians

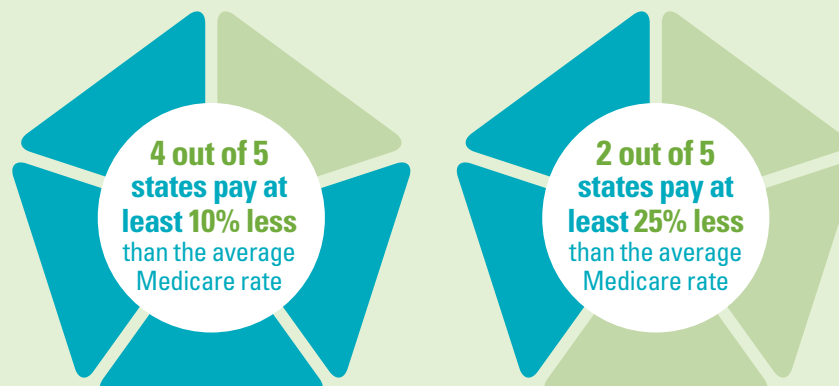


For adult recipients, the average physician vaccine administration fee was **\$10.54**, or **33%** of the national Medicare Part B rate for administering influenza vaccine (**\$30**).



#### Medicaid vs. Medicare Comparison

When comparing total reimbursement for Tdap vaccinations (product + administration)...



### Other Health Care Practitioners



Most states pay the same rate for vaccine administration by a **physician** or a **nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse midwife**.

For **pharmacists**, most states pay either the same or a higher vaccine administration fee as compared with physicians and may apply a different reimbursement methodology for the vaccine product.



### Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)



**Fewer than 1 out of 3 states** reimburse FQHCs for vaccinations separate from the fixed rate for each medical visit under the FQHC Prospective Payment System (PPS).



## Strategies that states could consider to improve access to prenatal vaccines for Medicaid and CHIP enrollees:

- Ensure adequate reimbursement for prenatal vaccinations**, including the service of vaccine administration as well as vaccine supply, across all providers eligible to administer such vaccines.
- With respect to the **Vaccines for Children (VFC) program**, through which participating providers can receive vaccines free of charge for administration to Medicaid-enrolled youth under the age of 19:
  - Make all potential vaccinators (including pharmacists) eligible to participate in the VFC program
  - Ensure that pregnant youth are able to receive prenatal vaccines from obstetrician-gynecologists (OB/GYNs) who do not participate in VFC
- In states with managed care programs, **leverage managed care organizations (MCOs)** to enhance prenatal vaccine access by, for example, establishing requirements for provider reimbursement or member outreach and education, or by defining MCO incentives tied to prenatal vaccination.

**Increasing reimbursement for vaccine administration can "increase provider participation and in turn improve access to vaccines for Medicaid beneficiaries."**

Source: The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission's March 2022 Report to Congress



*This research was conducted with support from Pfizer.*

<sup>1</sup> Although this paper will generally refer to "pregnant women," the authors acknowledge that some pregnant individuals may not identify as women.

<sup>2</sup> CDC, *Guidelines for Vaccinating Pregnant Women*, (accessed January 25, 2023), <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/guidelines.html>.

<sup>3</sup> CDC, *Flu, Tdap, and COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women – United States, April 2022*, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/pregnant-women-apr2022.htm>; CDC, *Influenza and Tdap Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women – United States, April 2020* (October 2, 2020), <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6939a2.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), *Vaccine Access for Adults Enrolled in Medicaid*, Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, 24-49 (March 2022), <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-2-Vaccine-Access-for-Adults-Enrolled-in-Medicaid.pdf>.

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