

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**3/30/21 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RHODE ISLAND
MEDICAID STATE PLAN**

In accordance Rhode Island General Laws 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to make the following amendment to the Rhode Island State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act:

Vaccines and Vaccine Administration

EOHHS will submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) an amendment to the Rhode Island Medicaid State Plan to codify and expand the coverage, payment methodologies and permissible qualified providers of vaccines and their administration, including both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 vaccines.

Non-COVID and COVID Vaccines

With the exception of the 1) vaccines that are state-supplied by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) through the Pediatric and Adult Immunization programs, per RI General Law Sections 23-1-44 and 23-1-45, and 2) vaccines that are federally purchased on behalf of providers in Rhode Island, vaccines are paid at the rate which is provided on the Medicare's Average Sales Price Drug Pricing File (available [here](#)) for that applicable quarter.

Non-COVID Vaccine Administration

The administration of all vaccines, with the exception of the administration COVID-19 vaccines during the time period defined in Section 1905(hh)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (SSA), will be paid via a fee schedule, effective April 1, 2021, which can be accessed [here](#).

COVID Vaccine Administration

Until the end date of the 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that is defined in Section 1905(hh)(2)(B) of the SSA, the administration of COVID-19 vaccines (including those authorized for emergency use only by the United States Food and Drug Administration) will be paid at the applicable geographically-adjusted Medicare payment rate for COVID-19 vaccine administration for Rhode Island, which is listed on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS).

Following the time period that is defined in Section 1905(hh)(2)(B) of the SSA, the reimbursement rate for administration of all COVID-19 vaccines will be equal to the administration rates for all other non-COVID-19 vaccines, which are identified in the EOHHS fee schedule effective April 1, 2021, which can be accessed [here](#).

Qualified Providers

In light of the new guidance from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), EOHHS is codifying the existing, as well as expanding, the allowable types of qualified providers for vaccine administration to include not only physicians, nurse practitioners (NP), advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and physician assistants (PA), but also licensed pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians.

This SPA is projected to have a budgetary impact of \$23 million federal funds. This is due to the fact that EOHHS is not changing its current payment method for non-COVID-19 vaccines and that Section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan allows for 100% FMAP for COVID-19 vaccines and their administration. The proposed effective date of this change is April 1, 2021.

This proposed amendment is accessible on the EOHHS website (www.eohhs.ri.gov) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-6348 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by April 29, 2021 to Melody Lawrence, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Rd, Cranston, RI, 02920, or melody.lawrence@ohhs.ri.gov.

In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted on the proposed State Plan Amendment if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, an agency, or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within fourteen (14) days of this notice.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.