

# mcp newsletter

May 3, 2021

21-03

**TO: ALL FEE-FOR-SERVICE PHYSICIANS**

**RE: TEMPORARY COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION FEE CODES**

The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) will be introducing the following two temporary COVID-19 immunization fee codes below effective May 17, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Physicians planning to administer COVID-19 vaccines should review provincial guidance and other important resources available at [Resources for Health Care Professionals - COVID-19 Vaccine \(gov.nl.ca\)](https://www.gov.nl.ca/COVID-19/Vaccine).

Please be advised that COVID-19 immunization fee codes are insured by MCP **only** when they are administered to the target populations in the phased approach outlined at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/COVID-19/vaccine/prioritygroups/>. Immunization of persons outside of those priority groups as identified by phase is a non-insured service. Contacting patients belonging to priority groups to inform them of the availability of the COVID-19 immunization during the appropriate phase will not be viewed by MCP as solicitation.

<b>54661</b>	<b>COVID-19 immunization; visit fee and/or fee code 54000 not payable in addition .....</b>	<b>17.16</b>
<b>54662</b>	<b>COVID-19 immunization add-on to office visit .....</b>	<b>Add 10.00</b>

Billing Requirements for COVID-19 Immunization:

- 1) Each COVID-19 vaccination administered by a physician to an individual within a priority group currently being offered vaccine will be payable at \$17.16. This rate applies whether it is a single-dose vaccination or a subsequent dose.
- 2) Physicians may work with learners and other health care professionals to administer COVID-19 immunizations and bill for these services as long as applicable requirements in the MCP Medical Payment Schedule General Preamble sections 5.2 and 5.6 are met. The billing physician must be physically present at the site where the COVID-19 immunization(s) is administered.

- 3) When the sole intent of the interaction is to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, fee code 54661 is payable. Visit fees and/or fee code 54000 are not payable in addition.
- 4) When a patient presents to a physician's office for a visit unrelated to the COVID-19 vaccination and also receives a COVID-19 vaccine during the office visit, the appropriate office visit code may be billed by the physician as long as preamble requirements for that visit are met. In this case, fee code 54662 is also payable for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine at \$10.00.
- 5) Premiums cannot be billed with COVID-19 immunization fee codes. However, fee code 139 ("Add on fee for patients seen in scheduled after hours clinics") remains billable with fee codes 101 through 136.

Documentation Requirements for Physicians Providing COVID-19 Immunization:

- 1) If an office visit is billed with the COVID-19 immunization, the record of service for that visit must meet applicable documentation requirements as outlined in the MCP Medical Payment Schedule preamble. ***Separate documentation of the COVID-19 vaccination is also required as below.***
- 2) Each time a COVID-19 vaccination is administered, it must be documented according to the instructions below.

**For Med Access users:** completion of the **COVID-19 Immunization Response** template available within Med Access is the **only** acceptable method of documenting COVID-19 immunization. Further details on completion of this document will be communicated to all eDOCS through normal program mechanisms.

**For non-Med Access users:** instructions on documentation requirements for non-Med Access users is forthcoming.

Questions relating to the content of this newsletter should be directed to Dr. Colleen Crowther, Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1557 or by email at [colleencrowther@gov.nl.ca](mailto:colleencrowther@gov.nl.ca).