

Billing Information Sheet

COVID Immunization Temporary Service Codes to Address Vaccine Hesitancy

Effective December 1, 2021 – until further notice

500A COVID-19 Immunization Hesitancy Counselling

\$33.75

1. Payable to physicians providing in-person counselling directly related to COVID-19 immunization hesitancy for eligible patients age 12+ who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - a) Not payable for patients who have received one or more COVID-19 vaccines.
2. Counselling may include: COVID-19 immunization advice, discussions on indications, contraindications, benefits and risks of immunization, questions concerning immunization in general, questions regarding a specific vaccine product, or addressing concerns about the side effects of vaccines.
3. Payable only in addition to an in-person visit for a condition unrelated to vaccination and is paid in full.
 - a) Not payable in addition to a visit arranged for the primary purpose of receiving a COVID vaccination.
4. Counselling service must be a minimum of 10 minutes of in-person physician-to-patient contact, exclusive of any time spent on the unrelated visit.
5. Service can be initiated by physician or patient.
6. Service must be performed by the billing physician (i.e., service cannot be delegated to anyone else).
7. Payable once per patient, per physician.
8. Not billable reciprocally by out-of-province physicians.
9. Payable if patient elects not to receive vaccine during the visit.
10. Service is not eligible for any premiums or surcharges.
11. Physicians are responsible to ensure appropriate documentation (that must include start and stop times) consistent with the Payment Schedule for Insured Services Provided by a Physician “Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing”.

505A COVID-19 Immunization Administration

\$25.00

1. Payable to physicians providing COVID-19 immunizations in their office (outside of SHA organized and supported immunization sites). Recognizes the additional administrative burden with COVID-19 immunization.
2. Payable in addition to the hesitancy counselling code and/or an in-person office visit for a condition unrelated to vaccination.
3. Payable for the administration of each dose of vaccine when multiple doses are required to complete the initial vaccination series.
 - a) Payable for the administration of subsequent booster COVID-19 vaccination doses.
4. Service cannot be delegated by the physician to a non-physician.
 - a) Service is payable for services performed by a medical learner (as defined in the Physician Payment Schedule “Services Supervised By A Physician” sub-clause a) under the supervision of a physician as long as the physician is able to intervene promptly if necessary.
 - b) Billings must include the comment: “supervision of medical learner”.
5. Service is not eligible for any premiums or surcharges.
6. Not payable for immunizations provided as part of a health authority immunization program.
7. Not billable reciprocally by out-of-province physicians.
8. Physicians are responsible to ensure appropriate documentation consistent with the Payment Schedule for Insured Services Provided by a Physician “Documentation Requirements for the Purposes of Billing”.

All general billing inquiries can be directed to the Claims Analysis Unit at
Medical Services Branch: (306) 787-3454