



PROVIDER *bulletin*

August 4, 2021

Dear Provider:

Kern Family Health Care (KFHC) appreciates the care you provide to our members. Providing efficient and appropriate care is the goal of KHFC and our plan partners as yourselves.

As we enter the flu season, yet again in the midst of the pandemic, please remember that pharmacies are uniquely positioned to provide preventative health care for our members. Several adult immunizations, including the influenza vaccine, are a pharmacy benefit expressly designed to expand access to immunizations for individuals who are not eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, i.e. Medi-Cal beneficiaries 19 years of age and older. The VFC benefit coverage is restricted to immunizations administered in accordance with the current routine immunization schedules published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Identify eligible members by checking the CAIR website for vaccination based on current ACIP guidelines. Factors taken into consideration will include:

- Age
- vaccination status e.g. persons previously vaccinated or due for a vaccination according to the recommended schedule
- the presence of a medical condition that puts them at high risk.

After administering the vaccine, please record the encounter with the CAIR website. Further details on pharmacy billing and eligibility requirements for administering vaccines are outlined in Policy 13.07-P.

Last cold/flu season was mild due in part to social distancing. However, this year, circumstances may be different as people are out interacting more. It will be even more important to ensure that promotion of the influenza vaccine is as strong or stronger than last year. Last year, in addition to the social distancing, pharmacy-based vaccination rates for KFHC were about 50% higher than in years past. Keep up the good work. Continue to provide services to the medically vulnerable in our community.

More information on the two programs may be found at the following links.

California Immunization Registry (CAIR) Website: <http://cairweb.org>

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Website: www.eziz.org

*** Per CDC guidelines, the influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine should be separated by 14 days.***

Thank you for helping to take care of our members and performing the important and appreciated services you provide day in and day out.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda, R.Ph.
Director of Pharmacy