



Medicare Part D Vaccines



What's Changed?

- Clarified policy on new vaccines and Part D plan formularies (page 2)
- Clarified general policy on billing Part D vaccines (page 3)

Substantive content changes are in dark red.

If you're a health care provider who administers certain vaccines to patients with Medicare prescription drug (Part D) plans, it's important to understand that their Part D plans generally pay for the vaccines and administration.

Together we can advance health equity and help eliminate health disparities for all minority and underserved groups. Find resources and more from the [CMS Office of Minority Health](#):

- [Health Equity Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Disparities Impact Statement](#)

Part B Vaccines

Medicare Part B covers vaccines and vaccine administration for:

- [Flu](#)
- [Pneumonia](#)
- [Hepatitis B](#) (for people at high and intermediate risk)
- [COVID-19](#)
- Certain reasonable and necessary vaccines to **treat** an injury or exposure to a disease

Part D Vaccines

Part D plans cover all commercially available vaccines when they're reasonable and necessary to **prevent** illness, **except those covered by Part B**.

Part D plans may not immediately add newly approved vaccines to their formularies. If a new vaccine isn't on the Part D plan's formulary, the enrollee or the enrollee's representative, prescribing physician, or other prescriber acting on behalf of the enrollee can request vaccine coverage through the [formulary exception](#) process.

Part D Vaccine Administration

Part D plans cover [vaccine administration costs](#) as part of each vaccine's negotiated price, including:

- Dispensing fee (if applicable)
- Vaccine administration fee
- Vaccine ingredient cost

Examples

The shingles, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and tetanus-diphtheria-whooping cough vaccines are Part D vaccines.

Treat (Part B) vs. Prevent (Part D)

If a patient gets a tetanus vaccination because of an accidental puncture wound, it's a Part B-covered vaccine. However, if the patient gets a tetanus booster shot, unrelated to injury or illness, it's a Part D-covered vaccine.

Bill Part D vaccines, including their associated administration costs, [on 1 claim](#) when the same provider is both dispensing and administering the vaccine. This applies to both in-network and out-of-network providers.

Part D plans may pay **either** a single vaccine administration fee for all vaccines **or** multiple administration fees based on:

- Product administration complexity
- Provider type
- Vaccine type

Contact your patient's [Part D plan](#) to learn about specific vaccine administration fees.

Patient Cost-Sharing

Patients with Part D plans pay nothing out of pocket for [adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) even if they get the Part D vaccine from an out-of-network provider. Part D vaccine cost-sharing is consistent with coverage under Part B where the patient has no coinsurance or deductible.

If an out-of-network provider administers the vaccine, the patient may have to pay a vaccine administration fee at the time of service, but they can get reimbursed in full for this fee from their Part D plan.



Patient Access to Part D Vaccines

Part D In-Network Pharmacy Options

If you aren't able to bill the Part D plan directly, work with your patient and their [Part D plan](#) for payment. Figures 1 and 2 show how in-network pharmacies can dispense, administer, and bill for Part D vaccines.

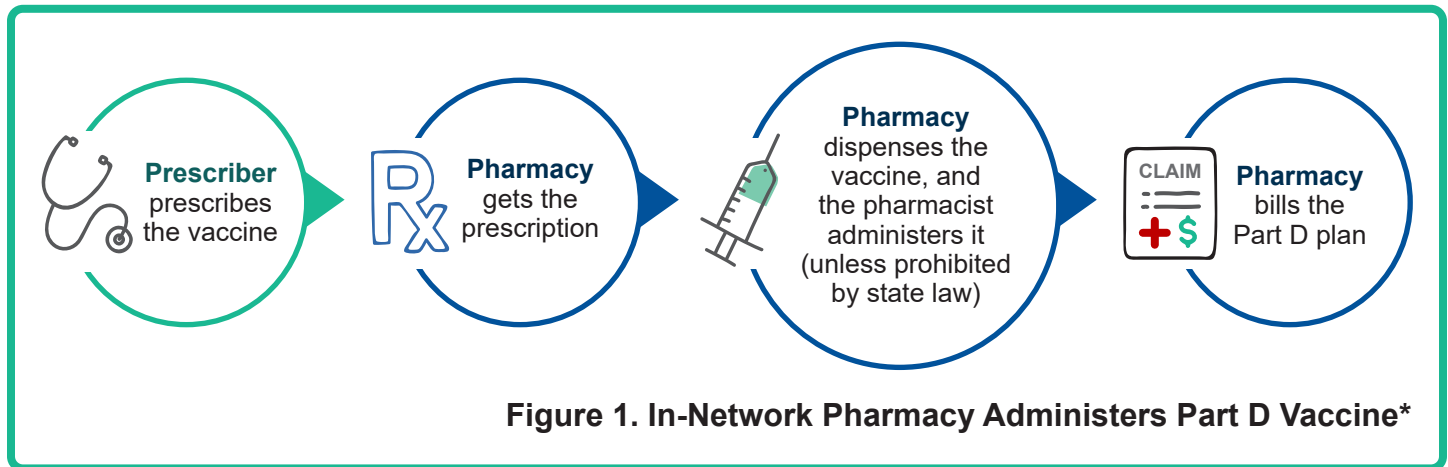


Figure 1. In-Network Pharmacy Administers Part D Vaccine*

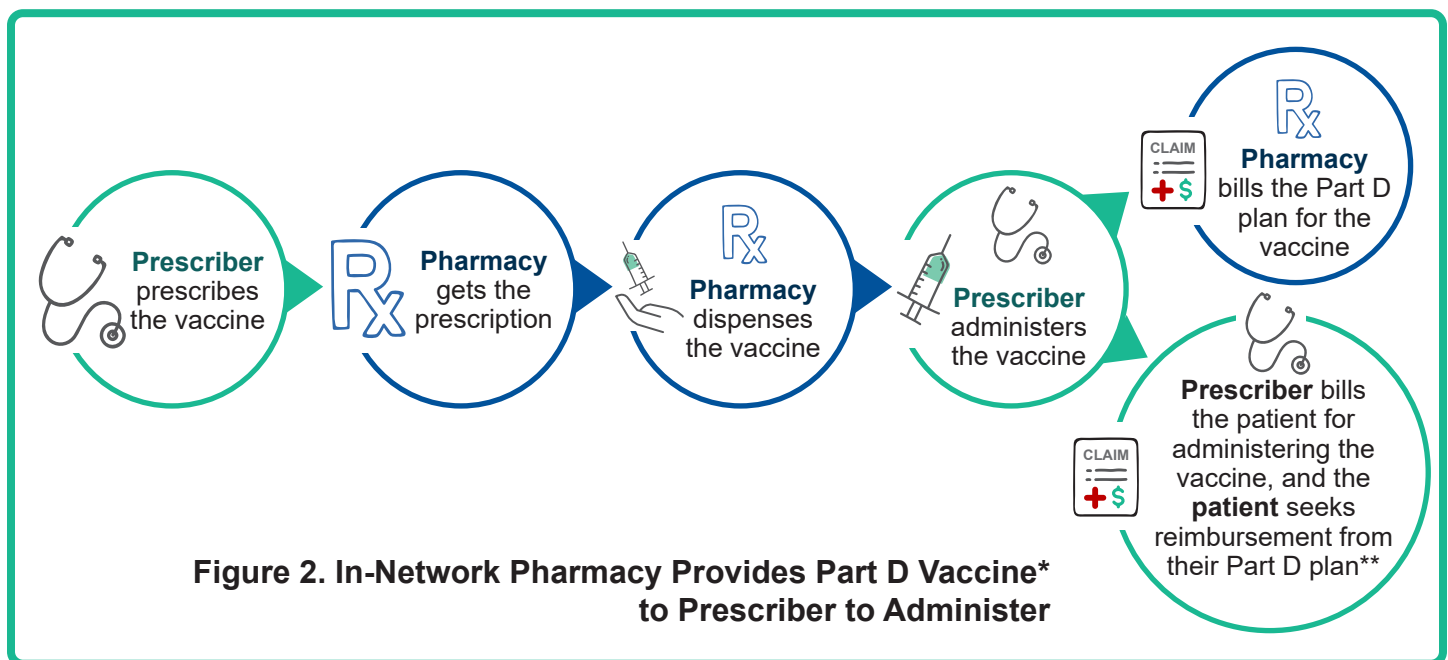


Figure 2. In-Network Pharmacy Provides Part D Vaccine* to Prescriber to Administer

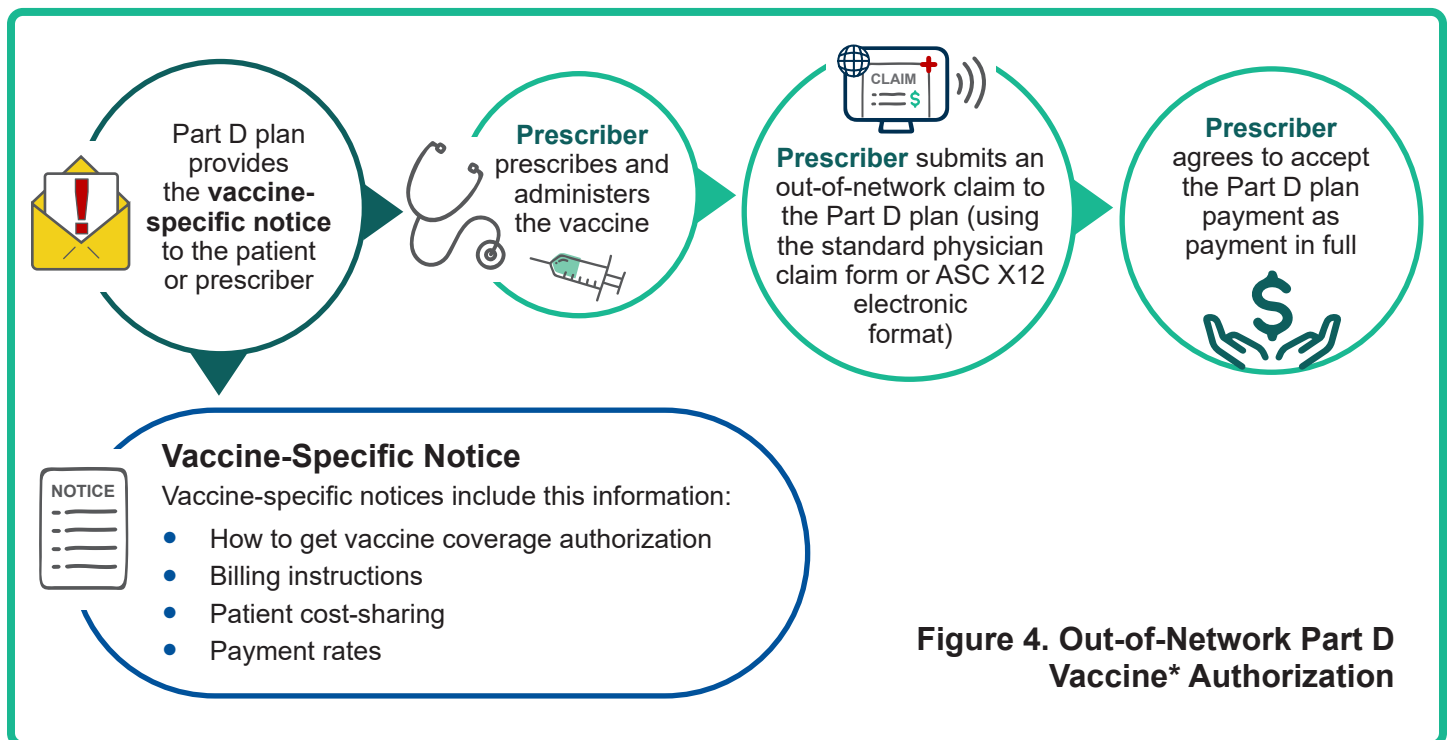
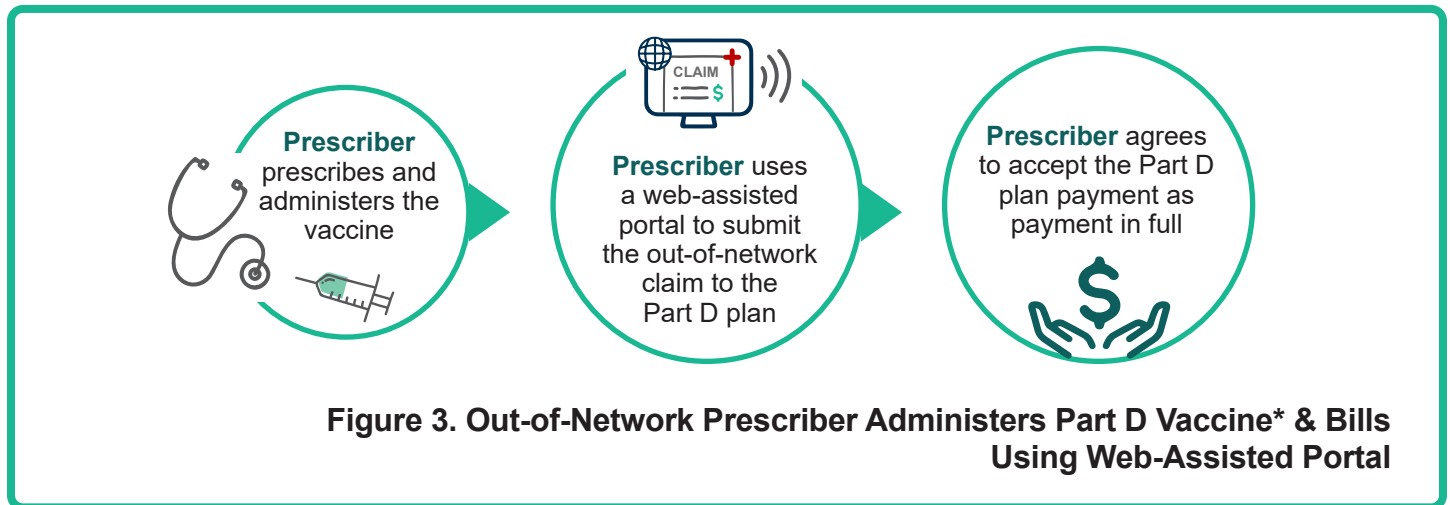
*Most prescribed vaccines are [ACIP-recommended](#). If you prescribe a vaccine that isn't ACIP-recommended, the Part D plan may charge the patient coinsurance or a copayment.

**Vaccine administration in prescribers' offices is considered out of network because Part D sponsors' networks are defined as pharmacy networks only.

Part D Out-of-Network Prescriber Options

In out-of-network situations, the prescriber may assist patients in submitting their vaccine claims. The prescriber doesn't become a network provider.

Figures 3 and 4 show how out-of-network prescribers can administer and bill Part D vaccines.



*Most prescribed vaccines are [ACIP-recommended](#). If you prescribe a vaccine that isn't ACIP-recommended, the Part D plan may charge the patient coinsurance or a copayment.

Resources

- [Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment](#)
- [Medicare Part D Patient Information](#)
- [Prescription Drug Coverage – General Information](#)
- [Sections 60.2–60.3.4 of Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, Chapter 5](#)
- [Section 10.14 of Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, Chapter 6](#)

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