



Medicare Part D Vaccines



What's Changed?

Note: No substantive content updates.

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

Medicare Part B Vaccines

Part B covers the following vaccines and their administration:

- [Flu vaccine](#)
- [Pneumococcal vaccine](#)
- [Hepatitis B vaccine](#) (for people at intermediate or high risk, including patients who haven't completed a hepatitis B shot series or whose shot history is unknown)
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- Certain reasonable and necessary vaccines to **treat** an injury or exposure to a disease (examples include, but aren't limited to, tetanus, rabies, and hepatitis A vaccines)

Part D Vaccines

Part D plans cover all commercially available vaccines, **except those covered by Part B**, when they're reasonable and necessary to prevent illness. For example, the shingles, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccines are Part D vaccines.

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

Treatment (Part B) vs. Prevention (Part D)

Part B covers certain vaccines, such as tetanus, rabies, or hepatitis A, when they're given to treat an injury or exposure to disease. Part D covers preventive vaccines, such as a tetanus booster shot, when they're unrelated to injury, illness, or exposure.

Part D Vaccine Administration

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

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

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

Keep in mind:

- 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.
- 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.
- If an out-of-network provider administers the vaccine, the patient may need to pay a vaccine administration fee at the time of service. The patient can seek reimbursement for the fee from their Part D plan.
- There's no patient coinsurance or deductible for Part B vaccines.

Patient Access to Part D Vaccines

Part D In-Network Pharmacy Options

If you can't bill the Part D plan directly, work with your patient and their Part D plan to get payment.

Figures 1 and 2 show how in-network pharmacies can dispense, administer, and bill for Part D vaccines.

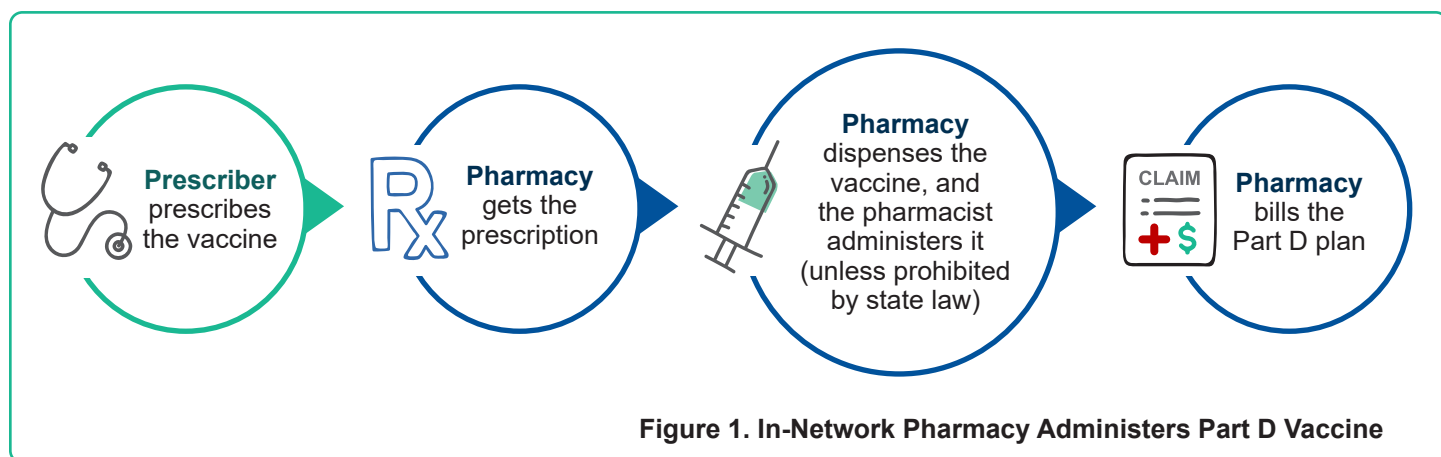
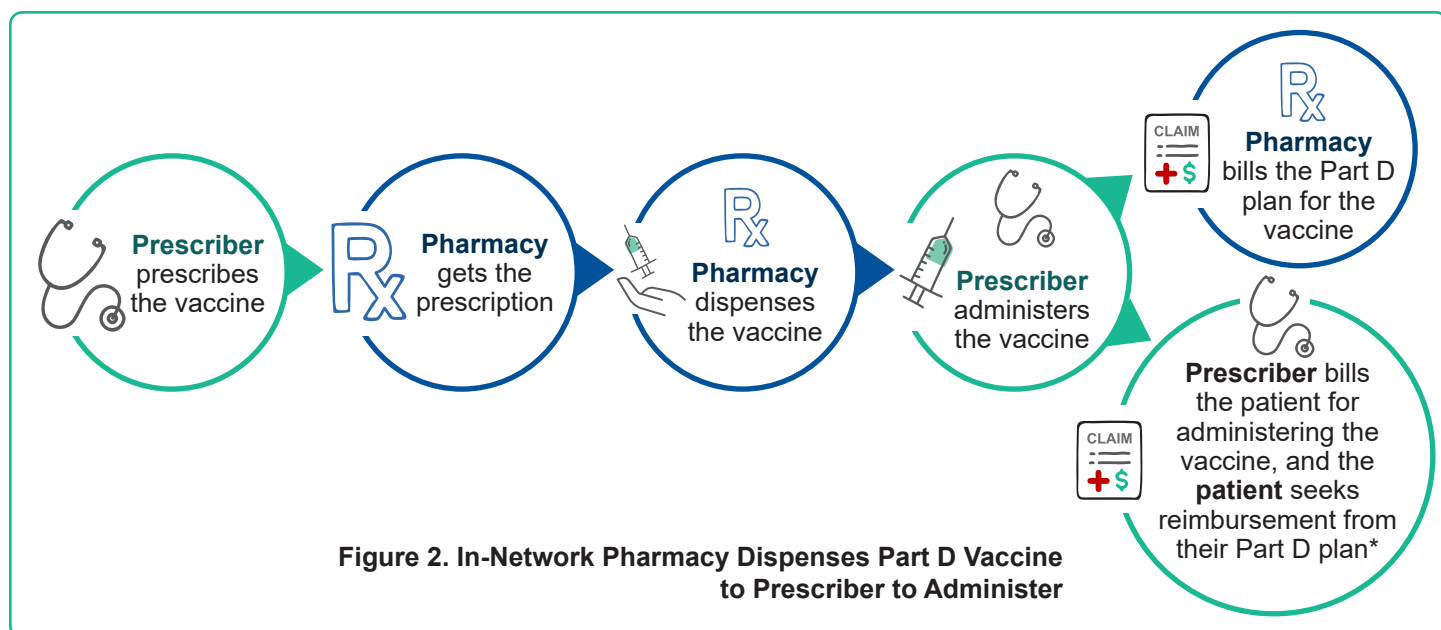


Figure 1. In-Network Pharmacy Administers Part D Vaccine



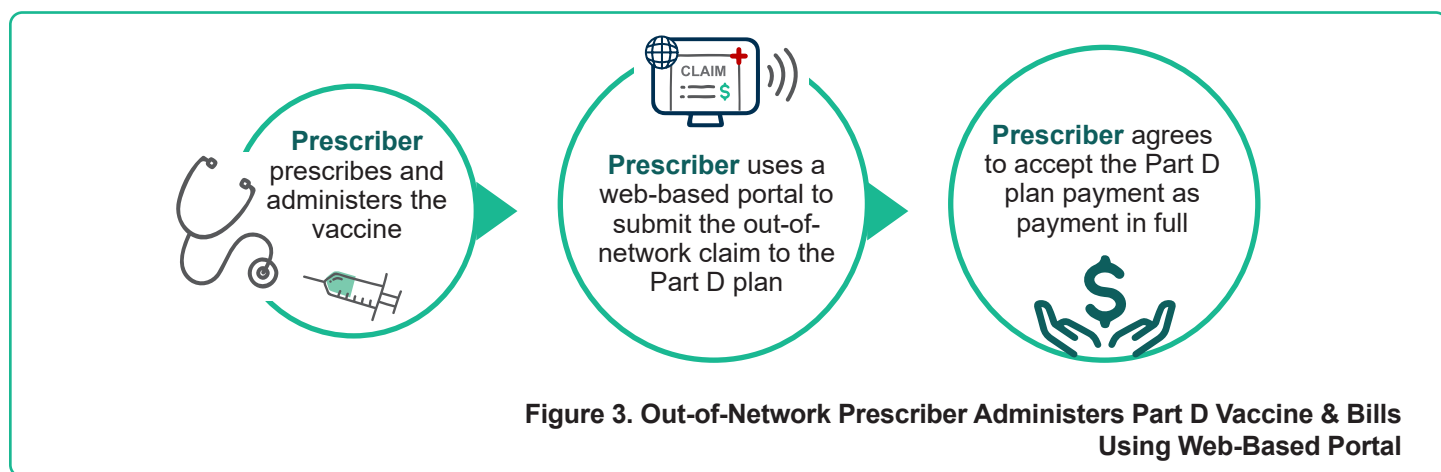
* CMS considers vaccine administration in prescribers' offices to be out-of-network because we define Part D sponsors' networks as pharmacy networks only.

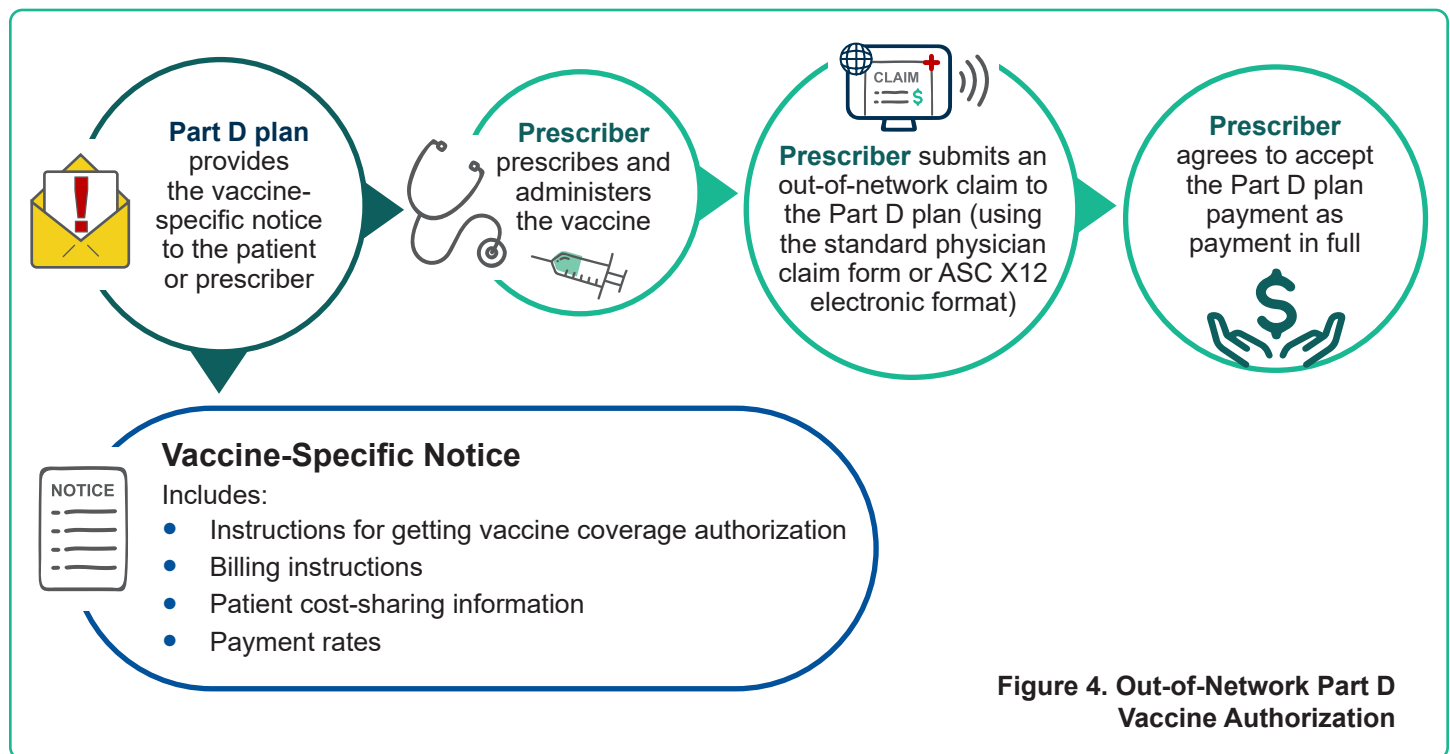
Part D Out-of-Network Prescriber Options

We don't require a provider to enroll in Medicare for the Part D program to cover their prescriptions. However, vaccines prescribed by out-of-network providers on a [preclusion list](#) aren't covered under Part D.

We consider vaccine administration in prescribers' offices to be out-of-network because we define Part D sponsors' networks as pharmacy networks only. In out-of-network situations, the prescriber may help patients submit their vaccine claims. This doesn't make the prescriber a network provider.

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





Resources

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

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