

October 15, 2025

Vaccine Guidance for HPSM Members

Dear provider,

The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) is reaching out to provide guidance surrounding vaccination coverage for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Vaccines are covered if they are recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) — even if they are not yet recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Coverage may come from one of the following: the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medi-Cal, or HPSM. **Responsibility for paying for the vaccine and its administration depends on the member's age and whether the vaccine is COVID-related.**

The table below summarizes the payment responsibility for the various vaccines for Medi-Cal members:

Vaccine Type	Member Age	ACIP Recommended?	CDPH Recommended?	Who pays for vaccine cost?	Who pays for vaccine admin cost?
Covid*	< 19 years old	Y	Y	VFC program	FFS Medi-Cal
		N	Y	FFS Medi-Cal	FFS Medi-Cal
	≥19 years old	Y	Y	FFS Medi-Cal	FFS Medi-Cal
		N	Y	FFS Medi-Cal	FFS Medi-Cal
Non-Covid	< 19 years old	Y	Y	VFC program	HPSM
		N	Y**	HPSM	HPSM
	≥19 years old	Y	Y	HPSM	HPSM
		N	Y**	HPSM	HPSM

*COVID vaccine coverage including cost of administration is carved out of HPSM and covered by FFS Medi-Cal.

**Currently, the only vaccine in this category is MMRV for children under 4. HPSM is waiting for CDC's final decision before updating the claims system to cover vaccines recommended by CDPH but not by ACIP.

Why this guidance now? Assembly Bill 144 (AB 144) is a new California law that expands vaccine access and Medi-Cal coverage. It authorizes the CDPH to issue its own vaccine recommendations based on input from various medical and public health organizations — not just ACIP. For Medi-Cal members under 19, this means Medi-Cal can cover childhood vaccines recommended by CDPH even if they are not part of the Vaccines for Children program, which only includes vaccines approved by ACIP.

Learn more about AB 144 here: <https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammis.medi-cal.ca.gov/news/33654>

Please direct questions to HPSM Provider Services at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

Thank you,

The Health Plan of San Mateo