NOTICE

TO: All Health Insurance Companies and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara

DATE: November 5, 2021

RE: **Claims Processing for Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination**

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The Department has been approached by providers and consumers regarding concerns that some insurers may not be ready to correctly process claims for pediatric COVID-19 vaccine administration.

The U.S. FDA and CDC have approved Pfizer-BioNTech's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years, a unanimous decision confirmed to Governor Gavin Newsom by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup. Due to the new dosage and age cohort, the American Medical Association has created CPT codes for vaccine and administration of pediatric doses of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer. These codes are publicly available on the AMA's website, as well as from the CMA Vaccine Toolkit. [1]

The Department directs health insurers to take necessary steps to update their claims processing systems for this newly eligible population, in light of the importance of expediting access to this next step in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, and to avoid processing and administrative delays.

The Department reminds consumers and providers that the Department of Insurance is here to help. If any questions or complaints, please call the Department at 1-800-927-4357 (TTY 800-482-4833). Consumers and providers can also submit questions or complaints online at the Department's Consumer and Provider Complaint Center at this link: http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/101-help/.

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[1] CPT update: AMA announces CPT update for pediatric COVID-19 vaccine candidate | American Medical Association (ama-assn.org), Vaccine toolkit: CMA COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for Physician Practices.pdf (cmadocs.org)

PROTECT • PREVENT • PRESERVE
300 South Spring Street, 14th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90013
Tel: (213) 346-6464 • Fax: (213) 897-9051
Consumer Hotline 800-927-4357 • TTY 800-482-4833
www.insurance.ca.gov