



Rates of Commercial and Medicaid Health Plan Non-Payment of Adult Vaccine Dose Claims



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Background

- Adult vaccination coverage levels are far below public health goals in the United States.
- Providers report concerns regarding payment as a barrier to providing vaccines for adults.

Objective

- To address scope of vaccine dose non-payment, we examined rates of non-payment in two managed care populations.

Methods

- Analyzed administrative data from 2014-2015 from a large (>500,000 members annually) commercial and smaller (average 70,000 members) Medicaid managed care plans, both part of a larger health insurance entity.
- Assessed rates of vaccine dose non-payment, defined as a health plan allowed amount of \$0, across patient-care settings, insurance types, and vaccine types.
- Evaluated individual claims for vaccine types and reasons for non-payment.

Results

- Non-payment varied by setting and was rare (commercial 1.5%; Medicaid 0%) for vaccine dose claims submitted by a pharmacy. Among non-pharmacy claims, the physician office was the dominant setting with non-payment in this venue more frequent for patients with Medicaid (10.8%) than commercial (2.5%, Table 1).
- Of the different types of vaccines provided in an office setting, the seasonal influenza vaccine was the most prevalent vaccine type (commercial 50%; Medicaid 47%) with low rates of non-payment (1.6% commercial; 6.6% Medicaid). The conjugate pneumococcal vaccine had substantial rates of non-payment (commercial 43%; Medicaid 22%). However, this pneumococcal vaccine was infrequently provided in the office setting at <2% of all vaccines administered in the physician office for both commercial and Medicaid populations (Table 2).

Results (cont.)

Table 1. Claims Presumptive Denial Rate by Location of Service

Place of Service	Commercial				Medicaid			
	Allowed = \$0	Total Cases	Medical* Venue % of Total	Presumptive Denial %	Allowed = \$0	Total Cases	Medical* Venue % of Total	Presumptive Denial %
Assisted living facility	1	1	0.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Birthing Center	-	1	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Emergency	2,509	6,325	2.4%	39.7%	-	-	-	-
Federally Qualified Health Center	-	35	0.0%	0.0%	89	624	3.2%	14.3%
Group home	-	1	0.0%	0.0%	1	1	0.0%	100.0%
Home	-	18	0.0%	0.0%	-	10	0.1%	0.0%
Hospice	1	1	0.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Independent Clinic	-	-	-	-	-	6	0.0%	0.0%
Independent Laboratory	-	1	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Inpatient hospital	2	5	0.0%	40.0%	-	-	-	-
Mass Immunization Center	315	27,842	10.6%	1.1%	14	102	0.5%	13.7%
Missing/Invalid/Unknown	25	4,956	1.9%	0.5%	2	20	0.1%	10.0%
Mobile Unit	1	2	0.0%	50.0%	-	-	-	-
Nursing Facility	-	3	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	-
Office	5,134	206,372	78.9%	2.5%	1,461	13,481	69.2%	10.8%
Other	27	79	0.0%	34.2%	-	-	-	-
Outpatient hospital	1,638	10,854	4.2%	15.1%	2,578	4,774	24.5%	54.0%
Pharmacy	576	39,633	NA	1.5%	0	2,910	NA	0.0%
Public Health Clinic	77	1,974	0.8%	3.9%	21	212	1.1%	9.9%
Rural Health Clinic	16	191	0.1%	8.4%	1	6	0.0%	16.7%
Urgent care	814	2,833	1.1%	28.7%	34	250	1.3%	13.6%

*Pharmacy claims excluded

Table 2. Claims Denial Rate by Vaccine Type and Insurance Type (Vaccine Dose Claims in the Physician Office Setting)

Vaccine	Commercial				Medicaid			
	Allowed = \$0	Total Cases	Vaccine % of Total	Presumptive Denial %	Allowed = \$0	Total Cases	Vaccine % of Total	Presumptive Denial %
Seasonal Influenza	1,654	103,809	50.30%	1.60%	420	6,352	47.10%	6.60%
Tdap (Adult)	389	52,396	25.40%	0.70%	152	3,582	26.60%	4.20%
Pneumococcal, Polysaccharide	91	9,424	4.60%	1.00%	30	842	6.20%	3.60%
HPV	263	8,573	4.20%	3.10%	309	767	5.70%	40.30%
Hepatitis A	328	6,583	3.20%	5.00%	150	459	3.40%	32.70%
Zoster	306	6,004	2.90%	5.10%	10	88	0.70%	11.40%
Hepatitis B	188	4,937	2.40%	3.80%	54	410	3.00%	13.20%
Pneumococcal, Conjugate	1,492	3,446	1.70%	43.30%	39	176	1.30%	22.20%
Meningococcal, conjugate	62	2,959	1.40%	2.10%	116	203	1.50%	57.10%
Td (Adult)	23	1,608	0.80%	1.40%	9	75	0.60%	12.00%
MMR	39	1,465	0.70%	2.70%	13	107	0.80%	12.10%
Hepatitis A/B	3	1,138	0.60%	0.30%	2	118	0.90%	1.70%
Typhoid	11	1,098	0.50%	1.00%	0	2	0.00%	0.00%
Varicella	39	1,029	0.50%	3.80%	25	125	0.90%	20.00%
Yellow Fever	5	414	0.20%	1.20%	1	1	0.00%	100.00%
Other (e.g. Peds Combo)	40	330	0.20%	12.10%	47	70	0.50%	67.10%
Rabies	2	316	0.20%	0.60%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
Polio	12	305	0.10%	3.90%	7	17	0.10%	41.20%
Japanese Encephalitis	0	156	0.10%	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
DTap (Peds)	93	95	0.00%	97.90%	18	18	0.10%	100.00%
Meningococcal, polysaccharide	2	90	0.00%	2.20%	0	7	0.10%	0.00%
Haemophilus Influenzae	18	86	0.00%	20.90%	29	32	0.20%	90.60%
Meningococcal, recombinant	51	75	0.00%	68.00%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
Rotavirus	19	21	0.00%	90.50%	30	30	0.20%	100.00%
Hepatitis B, 2 Dose	1	10	0.00%	10.00%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
BCG	0	2	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
Vaccine, NOC	2	2	0.00%	100.00%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
Adenovirus	1	1	0.00%	100.00%	0	0	0.00%	N/A
TOTAL	5,134	206,372	100.0%	2.5%	1,461	13,481	100.0%	10.8%

- The most common reason for vaccine dose allowed amount of \$0 in physician office claims was “clinical editing” for commercial members and “allowed amount paid” for Medicaid (Table 3). Clinical editing represents a health plan denial. However, “allowed” amount paid” actually represents a contractual arrangement that does not allow separate line item payment for the vaccine dose (e.g., a “bundled” per visit payment agreement).

Table 3. Explanation for Claims Denial in Physician Offices (For Vaccine Dose Claims Lines with only a Single Associated Payment Explanation Code)

Explanation	Commercial		Medicaid	
	Claims	% of TOTAL	Claims	% of TOTAL
Clinical Editing	1,802	48.07%	5	0.49%
Coordination of Benefits	586	15.63%	115	11.25%
Allowed Amount Paid	519	13.84%	481	47.06%
Clinical Editing: Age	381	10.16%	58	5.68%
Not a Member on Date of Service	112	2.99%	263	25.73%
Claim Submission Error	111	2.96%	45	4.40%
Duplicate Claim	106	2.83%	2	0.20%
Out of Network	64	1.71%	1	0.10%
Not a Benefit	27	0.72%	2	0.20%
No Authorization	21	0.56%	50	4.89%
Miscellaneous	20	0.53%	-	-
TOTAL	3,749	100.00%	1,022	100.00%

Conclusions

- Office and pharmacy adult immunization vaccine dose claims are mostly paid.
- Non-payment was more frequent for Medicaid, but health plan related barriers were not often reasons for these non-payment occurrences.
- While non-payment for a vaccine dose was uncommon, others aspects of vaccine encounter payments, such as vaccine administration, require further exploration.