



Medical Association working with Pfizer to update physicians on the COVID-19 Vaccine



The Medical Association has worked with Pfizer to host a conference call for physicians **at 3PM (CST) on December 8th** that will cover pertinent and timely information about the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. David Hering, President of Pfizer Vaccines North American and Alejandro Cane, MD, Vaccines

Scientific and Medical Affairs Lead North America, will be the featured speakers. Topics covered will include information on the vaccine development program as well as the US distribution plans with the states.

[Join the Webex Event Broadcast](#)

Event number: 145 068 5229

Event password: t6ZJM69GP3K

*If you have never joined a WebEx before the link will prompt you to install software to enable it to run. Allow this download and the session will then open once installed.

Audio Conference: Attendees can dial in and hear the presenters but they cannot ask questions.

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

1-877-668-4493 Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

Global call-in numbers | Toll-free dialing restrictions

Access Code: 145 068 5229

Join the Webex Event (available December 8th at 3PM)

COVID-19 Emergency Expiration Date Extended to January 31, 2021, says Alabama Medicaid Agency



All previously published expiration dates related to the COVID-19 emergency are once again extended by the Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid). The new expiration date is the earlier of January 31, 2021, the conclusion of the COVID-19 national emergency, or any expiration date noticed by the Alabama Medicaid Agency through a subsequent ALERT.

A listing of previous Provider ALERTs and notices related to the health emergency is available by selecting the Agency's COVID-19 page [here](#).

During the COVID-19 emergency, it is important to file claims as quickly as possible to ensure payment from Medicaid is made to Medicaid providers close to the date of service. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has increased the federal matching percentage for the emergency time frame, but states can only receive the increased match on claims that are paid during the emergency. Providers should include appropriate COVID-19 diagnosis code(s) on claims submitted to help with tracking of COVID-19.

Read the full alert from Alabama Medicaid Agency here

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Considerable changes are being made to Medicare outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) codes. The transition will take effect on January 1, 2021 and will likely affect physicians across all specialties.

The changes are currently restricted to new and established outpatient visits (CPT codes 99202-99205, 99211-99215) and will impact everyone who assigns codes, manages patient information, or pays claims including physicians, health information managers, coders, payers, health systems, and hospitals.

What can you do to prepare?

- Look over our [NEW "cheatsheet"](#) based on presentations by Dr. Weida and Kim Huey
- Watch our E/M Coding Changes for 2021 CME [webinars](#) hosted by Dr. Thomas Weida and Kim Huey (Free for Members).

[See more resources](#)

ADPH in need of COVID-19 vaccine providers



ADPH is in the process of determining how the COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to physician practices for administration to patients once the vaccine is available to the general public. Physicians who are interested in administering vaccines to their patients are encouraged to sign up through ImmPRINT (see further instructions below).

While there are many unknown variables, here is what we know about vaccine disbursement so far. The first round of available vaccines will be from Pfizer and are expected to be released to approximately eight early shipment sites in Alabama mid to late December. It is expected that Alabama will be initially allocated 40,000 doses of the vaccine. However, the ultra-cold storage requirement and 975 dose order minimum will make things difficult for individual physician practices to store this vaccine. It is expected that the Moderna vaccine could receive FDA approval one to two weeks following the release of the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna's vaccine can be stored in a regular freezer and can be ordered in increments of 100 doses. Because of the reduced cold storage requirement and smaller minimum dose order, it is anticipated that this vaccine will be available to physicians for administration to their patients.

Physicians must be enrolled in ImmPRINT to order the vaccine. We encourage you to enroll to help as Alabama's vaccine supply increases over the next several weeks.

1. Enroll in the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) statewide vaccine registry [ImmPRINT](#). *If you are already an ImmPRINT provider, please do not re-enroll, but you must log-in to the system and complete the COVID-19 provider agreement and profile.
2. All information on the provider profile and agreement is federally required for enrollment as a COVID-19 vaccine provider. DO NOT leave any fields blank. Questions concerning enrollment and provider profiles should be directed [here](#).
3. The provider agreement and profile will be reviewed and approved by ADPH. Providers will be notified once the review is complete and enrollment as a COVID-19 vaccine provider has been approved.
4. Qualified providers must place a vaccine order by December 3rd, 2020.
5. Immunization staff will assist your site with vaccine storage and handling, entering doses administered, and Vaccine Finder required daily inventory, [here](#). Training on the vaccine shipment and reorder process will be made available on-line and on-demand.

When will physicians be able to get vaccinated?



Physicians, their staff, and other healthcare workers are in the first tier of persons scheduled to receive the vaccine. However, because of the limited initial supply, the doses of the vaccine will go to those (in the first tier) who are at higher risk of infection. The Medical Association will continue to work with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to develop a plan to ensure early availability of the COVID-19 vaccine to physicians and their staff.

It is expected that Alabama will receive a weekly supply of additional doses. Therefore, physicians who did not get the initial vaccine will have the opportunity to get vaccinated soon thereafter.

We will provide updates to our members as additional information becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Jackson at (334) 954-2500 or via his email below.

[**Email Mark here**](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- [HHS allowing health-care professionals to provide telehealth services across state lines](#)
- [COVID-19 Deaths, Hospitalizations Again Set New Records](#)
- [Alabama reviews 14-day home quarantine for COVID-19 contacts](#)
- [7 things doctors wish patients knew about holiday gatherings this year](#)
- [What you need to know about cold and flu season in the time of COVID-19](#)



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COVID-19

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