

Frequently Asked Questions:

Tdap Insurance Coverage Information for Health Care Professionals in Virginia (6/2012)

1. What health insurance plans currently reimburse providers for Tdap expenses?

Some of the plans that currently reimburse providers and cover Tdap expenses are listed below. Out of network benefits vary depending on the type of coverage patients have. If a certain plan is not listed below, you may wish to check to see if Tdap is covered.

- Anthem
- Commercial plans (check with insurance provider)
- Medicaid Managed Care plans
- Medicare Part D (Prescription Plan)
- Optima
- Tricare
- Virginia State Medicaid for Children, less than 19 years of age

2. Which health insurance plans do not currently reimburse for Tdap expenses?

The following health insurance plans do not currently reimburse for Tdap expenses.

- Medicare Part B (Medical Plan)
- Virginia State Medicaid (fee-for-service)

Although these plans do not routinely cover Tdap, the Virginia State Plan for Medicaid will sometimes pay for Tdap vaccine for adults over 20 years of age if a physician determines medical necessity, uses modifier 22 and attaches notes to prove medical necessity.

3. Does Virginia State Medicaid cover Tdap?

It depends on the age of the patient and the type of Medicaid he/she has.

Children under the age of 19 years who are enrolled in Virginia State Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care plans are eligible to receive free Tdap vaccine through the Virginia Vaccines For Children (VVFC) program at participating private providers or local health departments. Providers are allowed to bill the administration and office visit fees.

If the patient is an adult with Medicaid Managed Care, the Tdap vaccine is covered. If the adult has fee-for-service Medicaid, Tdap vaccine is not routinely covered. However, the Virginia State Plan for Medicaid will sometimes pay for Tdap vaccine for adults if a physician determines medical necessity, uses modifier 22 and attaches notes to prove medical necessity.

4. Does Medicare for seniors cover Tdap?

Tdap vaccine is a Medicare Part D covered drug for patients 65 years of age and older. In addition to a prescription, some Medicare Part D plans may require providers to submit prior authorization forms which request justification of medical necessity for the Tdap administration (e.g., "patient cares for a young infant", "patient at risk of prolonged pertussis"). When prior authorization has not been obtained, pharmacies can still immunize and charge a fee to the patient, who could request reimbursement from Medicare Part D sponsors.

Medicare Part B does not routinely cover Tdap. Medicare Part B typically covers only tetanus vaccine as a result of exposure or injury.

This answer was partly adapted from California Department of Health:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/PertussisMedicareTdapCoveragePhysiciansUpdate.pdf>

5. How will health care reform impact coverage of Tdap vaccine?

The health care reform law mandates that insurance companies cover certain preventive treatments without requiring a co-payment, co-insurance or deductible. This provision of the law went into effect 9/2010. Many vaccines must now be covered for free, including **Tdap**. However, there are some **important exceptions**. "Grandfathered" plans are exempt from these new rules. If the health insurance plan was created before 3/23/2010, these services may not be free. Vaccines administered by a provider outside of the individual's health insurance network may include additional fees.

For more information on health care reform: <http://www.healthcare.gov/>