

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

July 16, 2024

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Dear Sue, Bob, and Sally:

Thank you for your letters dated May 17th to Andrew Witty and Heather Cianfrocco regarding the importance of vaccine availability for the nation's more than 67 million Medicare beneficiaries. As we discussed with you, UnitedHealthcare (United) shares your concerns and is committed to providing robust access to vaccines, which we believe are a cornerstone of our health system in helping to prevent serious illnesses and save lives.

For United's Medicare members, claims for adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that are covered by Medicare when administered at the pharmacy have a \$0 copay. Our Medicare members can receive flu, COVID-19, RSV, Tdap, and other vaccines at any network pharmacy that administers vaccines. In addition, for most vaccines, there are no prior authorization requirements, unless it is to ensure alignment with ACIP's age group recommendation.

To help ensure members have access to their prescription drugs, including vaccines, United has an expansive network of more than 65,000 pharmacies. And, if a member chooses to use an out-of-network pharmacy, instructions on how the member can submit a direct member reimbursement to request payment for the prescription drugs and/or vaccine that they paid for out-of-pocket are easily accessible on our plan websites, on the materials a member receives when they join the plan, or by simply calling our customer service number.

United values its pharmacy partners and the role they play in serving their communities and providing access to care. To that end, United is committed to negotiating market-competitive rates with our network pharmacies for the services they provide, including vaccine administration, which can be re-negotiated on at least an annual basis as part of our standard contract negotiation process.

We understand that recent regulatory changes and shifts in the economics of the pharmacy business have created headwinds for some pharmacies – and, in particular, rural and independent pharmacies. To help address these challenges, Optum Rx has developed initiatives that are specifically designed to support rural and independent pharmacies so they can continue providing much needed services. For example, Optum Rx’s Community and Independent Pharmacy Initiative aims to smooth reimbursement volatility and provide pharmacies with greater predictability, while its provider and pharmacy desert initiatives are focused on leveraging telehealth and transportation services to enhance access in areas with low provider and pharmacy access.

Thank you again for reaching out to emphasize the importance of meaningful vaccine access as we approach the next respiratory virus season. We hope to continue working collaboratively with you and the members we both serve to advance policies that promote health and well-being for all.

Sincerely,



Kent Monical
Medicare & Retirement West Region CEO / SVP Government Programs Pharmacy