

## State Vaccine Programs (SVPs) As TRICARE-Authorized Providers

Issue Date:

Authority: [32 CFR 199.6\(d\)\(5\)](#)

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### 1.0 ISSUE

Can State Vaccine Programs or State Vaccine Program entities (SVPs) be certified under TRICARE and reimbursed for supplied vaccines used to immunize TRICARE beneficiaries?

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

**2.1** SVPs are state entities that supply vaccines at no cost to immunization providers who use these vaccines to immunize children who reside in the state. SVPs do not administer individual immunizations. Rather, these entities simply supply the vaccines used in immunizations.

**2.2** In order for an SVP to be reimbursed for supplied vaccines used to immunize TRICARE beneficiaries the SVP must be certified as a TRICARE-authorized provider. [32 CFR 199.6\(d\)](#) lists those providers considered as “other providers” under the TRICARE program. Furthermore, [32 CFR 199.6\(d\)\(5\)](#) allows TRICARE-authorized provider status for any firm, supplier, or provider that is an authorized provider under Medicare or is otherwise designated as authorized by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA).

**2.3** On May 20, 2014, a Decision Paper was signed by the Director, Defense Health Agency to allow an SVP to be certified as a TRICARE-authorized supplier of vaccines under [32 CFR 199.6\(d\)\(5\)](#) when the SVP executes a TRICARE Participation Agreement and agrees to comply with TRICARE legal and program requirements.

### 3.0 POLICY

**3.1** An SVP may be certified as a TRICARE-authorized provider under the “other” category of provider as a supplier of vaccines when all of the following specific requirements are met:

**3.1.1** The SVP must hold a valid National Provider Identification (NPI) number.

**3.1.2** The SVP must enter into a participation agreement as delineated in [Chapter 11, Section 12.3](#).

**3.1.3** The SVP must agree to accept the lesser of the TRICARE allowed amount or the billed charge in accordance with [32 CFR 199.14](#) (i.e., the SVP-specific amount that is charged to other

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Chapter 11, Section 9.2

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payers) as payment in full for the vaccines supplied. The SVP must also agree to not balance bill the beneficiary.

**3.2** Each contractor is the certifying authority for SVPs located within their geographical jurisdiction, to include obtaining the required participation agreement.

**3.3** This policy applies to SVPs and SVP entities located within the continental U. S. to include Alaska and Hawaii, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and all U. S. territories.

**4.0 REIMBURSEMENT OF SVPS**

**4.1** As a supplier of vaccines, a TRICARE-authorized SVP may only be reimbursed for the supplied vaccines. Any other SVP charges (e.g., professional or administrative fees) shall be denied.

**4.2** A TRICARE-authorized SVP may only be reimbursed for supplied vaccines that are used to immunize TRICARE beneficiaries, and only for those vaccines covered under TRICARE.

**4.3** A request for reimbursement of SVP-supplied vaccines must be on an appropriate claim form as prescribed in [32 CFR 199.7](#). Submitted claims must be for a specific vaccine used to immunize a specific TRICARE beneficiary. In addition, all other TRICARE claims filing requirements must be adhered to.

**4.4** Reimbursement of vaccines supplied by a specific TRICARE-authorized SVP may only be made for dates of service that fall on or after the date the required participation agreement is signed. Claims for reimbursement for dates of service prior to the date the participation agreement is signed shall be denied.

**Note:** Some SVPs may require individual providers who receive SVP-supplied vaccines to file claims on their behalf. For example, the Washington Vaccine Association (the SVP for the state of Washington) requires this. Thus, individual professional providers in the state of Washington file two claims – one on their own behalf for the administration of the immunization (using vaccines supplied by the SVP), and another on behalf of the SVP for the vaccine itself using the SVP's NPI number.

**5.0 EFFECTIVE DATE**

An SVP that meets the requirements of this policy may be certified as a TRICARE-authorized supplier of vaccines on or after May 20, 2014. The effective date for certification of a specific SVP, for the purposes of claims reimbursement, is the date the required participation agreement is signed.

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