

ACP Policy Statement on the Provision, Distribution, and Payment of COVID-19 Vaccines

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents on behalf of the full Board of Regents on January 11, 2021

1. ACP supports utilizing all appropriately trained, state-licensed clinicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines. Physicians may play a role in advising and counseling patients on COVID-19 vaccines, addressing concerns and vaccine hesitancy, and providing post-vaccine counseling. Vaccines should be used in accordance with the scientific recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) informed by ethical considerations as outlined in ACP's [Policy Statement on the Ethical Allocation of Vaccines During Pandemics including COVID-19](#).
2. ACP recommends that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration, vaccine manufacturers, state and local health departments, and other stakeholders widely distribute to vaccinators all vaccine-related educational and outreach materials, quality protocols, storage and handling information, documentation, and other requirements specific to COVID-19 vaccines authorized under an Emergency Use Authorization. Vaccinators should be informed of any potential adverse events or contraindications and provided tools to educate and provide outreach to patients about the vaccine in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner. ACP supports a national campaign to communicate to the public why it is necessary to get vaccinated, where the vaccine can be obtained, and other information.
3. ACP recommends that all vaccinators, including pharmacists, nurses, and health care professionals working in retail health clinics, coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with the patient's primary care team to ensure patient safety and continuity of care. Specifically:
 - Vaccinators should provide the appropriate immunization paperwork or other documentation to the patient.
 - Vaccinators should refer the patient to their primary care team for any necessary counseling and follow-up care, particularly for patients with complex chronic care management needs.
 - Vaccinators should have a structured referral system to primary care settings and encourage patients they vaccinate to establish a longitudinal relationship with a primary care team if the patient does not have such an existing relationship.
4. ACP recommends that vaccinators record the vaccine administration data within the patient's medical record and promptly report to the state's immunization information system (IIS) or other designated CDC system. Ideally, health IT systems would automate vaccination data sharing with minimal additional effort required, including reporting to state IISs and notifying the patient's primary care team of their vaccination status and other relevant information. Adverse events should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. ACP supports funding for a coordinated effort to improve electronic exchange of public health data focused on agreed upon standards that are implemented

consistently across vendors and states as well as technical assistance and other resources to states to support IISs and other public health registries.

5. ACP recommends that insurers be required to provide adequate reimbursement for all vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, administered according to ACIP scientific guidelines. Private and public payers should inform care teams of all billing, coding, and other information necessary to obtain prompt reimbursement for administering the vaccine and providing related counseling and follow-up care to patients. ACP supports requirements that COVID-19 vaccine be provided at no cost to all patients, regardless of coverage status. ACP supports sufficient funding for the Section 317 Immunization Program; the COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured program; and others that support vaccinations for uninsured adults.