



December, 2020

## WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAID PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy>

### PROVIDER SERVICES

888-483-0793  
888-483-0801 (Pharmacy)  
304-348-3360  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 am until 5:00 pm

### PHARMACY HELP DESK & PHARMACY PRIOR AUTHORIZATION (RATIONAL DRUG THERAPY PROGRAM)

800-847-3859 (Phone)  
800-531-7787 (Fax)  
Monday – Saturday  
8:30 am until 9:00 pm  
Sunday 12:00 pm until 6:00 pm

### MEMBER SERVICES

888-483-0797  
304-348-3365  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 am until 5:00 pm

### PREFERRED DRUG LIST

For a copy of the most recent preferred drug list, visit:

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Pages/Preferred-Drug-List.aspx>

### STATE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE COST (SMAC)

SMAC Review Form:

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/SMAC/Pages/default.aspx>

Please refer questions to Change Healthcare at 1-855-389-9504 or e-mail to:

[PBA\\_WVSMAC@changehealthcare.com](mailto:PBA_WVSMAC@changehealthcare.com)

## New COVID-19 Vaccines Get Emergency Use Approval

With over 18 million cases and 320,000 deaths\* in the United States the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged our country and our world. West Virginia, particularly recently, has felt the brunt of this virus with over 81 thousand confirmed cases and one of the current highest rates of spreads in the country. \*\* That is why on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the news of the FDA’s emergency use authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, followed shortly by the EUA of Moderna’s vaccine, came as a breath of fresh air to many around the country. In this newsletter we will take a closer look at both vaccines.

### Novel Mechanism

Both vaccines are mRNA vaccines. The vaccines code for a “spike protein” that is unique to COVID-19 allowing the body’s immune response to create antibodies to the virus.

Given misinformation about the vaccine’s mechanism of action, it may be helpful to provide talking points for patients, or family members, to increase patient understanding and vaccine uptake:

- The vaccine creates a protein unique to COVID-19 but does not contain the materials needed to cause a COVID-19 infection.
- After the protein is made, your cells break down the mRNA and destroy it using the cell’s usual disposal system.
- The mRNA creates the protein in your cell’s cytoplasm and does not enter the nucleus (where your DNA is stored). Therefore, it cannot alter or change your genes.
- Your bodies immune system will produce antibodies and activate other cells to fight off what it thinks is an infection. This is why you may experience flu-like symptoms after receiving the virus. The antibodies made will be specific to COVID-19 since the vaccine helps the body to make a protein that looks like COVID-19.

### Current Vaccine Highlights

#### Pfizer-BioNTech

- Comes as a 2-dose vaccine of 30 mcg each separated by 21 days.
- The vial is stored at between -112 and -76 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The vaccine is 95% effective after the second dose and 88.9% effective after the first dose.
- The vaccine is approved for ages 16+ and was studied among 36,621 clinical trial participants

- Most commonly reported side effects are:
  - Injection site reaction (84.1%)
  - Fatigue (62.9%)
  - Headache (55.1%)
  - Muscle Pain (38.3%)
  - Chills (31.9%)
  - Joint Pain (23.6%)
  - Fever (14.2%)

#### **Moderna**

- Comes as a 2-dose vaccine of 100 mcg each separated by 28 days.
- The vial is stored at between -13 and -5 degrees
- The vaccine is 94.5% effective after the second dose and 80.2% effective after the first dose.
- The vaccine is approved for ages 18+ and was studied among 30,350 clinical trial participants
- Most commonly reported side effects are:
  - Injection site reaction (94.6%)
  - Fatigue (68.5%)
  - Headache (63%)
  - Muscle Pain (59.6%)
  - Joint Pain (44.8%)
  - Chills (43.4%)

As noted above, it is important to remind patients that they are likely to experience injection site reactions and flu like symptoms, which is natural given that the body thinks it is treating a true infection.

#### **Vaccine Distribution**

The initial shipment of Pfizers vaccine is 2.9 million doses with another 2.9 million doses held back for the second dose in 21 days. The initial dose has been recommended for all front-line healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents per the recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). For all updated recommendations by the ACIP please see the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>

The good news is that there will be an anticipated 40-50 million doses of the two vaccines by the end of the year for the above groups as well as essential workers, others at risk, teachers, etc. Vaccines for the general public will likely not start until April.

#### **Community Acceptance**

While a recent Gallup Panel survey shows that American's willingness to receive a COVID vaccine is improving (63% are willing, an increase from 50% in September) there is still more that can be done by providers to increase utilization and assuage fears.

Providers can use the following link to create talking points about safety and efficacy from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>) including clinical trials, FDA review, vaccine safety monitoring, and other expanded safety monitoring systems such as V-safe, a smartphone based application that checks the health status of people after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Additionally, providers can use some of the following talking points with patients on the importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccines.

- The vaccine will make it much less likely that you will get COVID-19 and may help you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- The vaccine will help your body make immunity to COVID-19 without getting the virus. This can help protect you from serious, life-threatening complications or long-term side-effects associated with COVID-19.
- Clinical trials of vaccines must show they are safe and effective and must meet the FDA's rigorous standards for approval. You can view the following link that explains what an FDA EUA is (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGkwaESsGBQ>)

The following additional links may also prove to be useful for providers and patients:

- Access to the WV daily COVID update from WV DHHR) <https://dhr.wv.gov/News/2021/Pages/default.aspx>
- WV DHHR patient vaccine information hub <https://dhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>
- WVU Medicine COVID 19 Vaccine Seminar [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=452&v=bi0vSEnhUgA&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=452&v=bi0vSEnhUgA&feature=emb_title)

\*Per the John's Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center at the time of writing  
\*\* Per the WV DHHR website accessed 12/28/2020

## Upcoming PDL Changes

The following changes will be made to the Preferred Drug List (PDL), effective January 1, 2021, pending recommendation and/or approval by the P&T Committee, BMS, and Secretary of DHHR..

For a comprehensive PDL, refer to: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/BMS%20Pharmacy/Pages/Preferred-Drug-List.aspx>

<b>NEW PREFERRED DRUGS</b>	
<b>THERAPEUTIC CLASS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED for PREFERRED STATUS</b>
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	DIFFERIN (adapalene) 0.1% CREAM
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	DIFFERIN (adapalene) 0.1% GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	DIFFERIN (adapalene) 0.3% GEL PUMP
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	DIFFERIN (adapalene) 0.1% LOTION
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	ACANYA (clindamycin phos/benzoyl perox) 1.2-2.5% GEL PUMP
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	ONEXTON (clindamycin phos/benzoyl perox) 1.2%-3.75% GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	CLINDAGEL (clindamycin) GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	ZIANA (clindamycin/tretinoin) GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	ACZONE (dapsone) GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	BENZAMYCIN (erythromycin/benzoyl perox) 3%-5% GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	sodium sulfacetamide-sulfur suspension
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	RETIN-A (tretinoin) CREAM
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	RETIN-A (tretinoin) GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	RETIN-A MICRO(tretinoin) GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	RETIN-A MICRO (tretinoin) GEL PUMP
ANALGESICS, NARCOTICS-LONG ACTING	XTAMPZA ER (oxycodone)
ANTIBIOTICS, VAGINAL	NUVESSA (metronidazole) GEL
ANTIHYPERURICEMICS	COLCRYS (colchicine) TABLETS
ANTIMIGRAINE AGENTS, PROPHYLAXIS	AJOVY (fremanezumab-vfrm)
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	VENTOLIN (albuterol) HFA
CYTOKINE & CAM ANTAGONISTS	XELJANZ (tofacitinib) TABLET *RA/UC only*
CYTOKINE & CAM ANTAGONISTS	TALTZ (ixekizumab) INJECTION
GLUCOCORTICOIDS, INHALED	ADVAIR (fluticasone-salmeterol) DISKUS
GLUCOCORTICOIDS, INHALED	budesonide nebulizer 0.5MG/2ML and 0.25 MG/2ML
MABS, ANTI-IL/IgE	XOLAIR (omalizumab)
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	dalfampridine ER tablet
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	dimethyl fumarate
SEDATIVE HYPNOTICS	ROZEREM (ramelteon)
STEROIDS, TOPICAL	DERMA-SMOOTH-FS (fluocinolone) OIL
STIMULANTS AND RELATED AGENTS	CONCERTA (methylphenidate) ER TABLET
STIMULANTS AND RELATED AGENTS	methylphenidate ER tablet
STIMULANTS AND RELATED AGENTS	methylphenidate hcl solution

## NEW NON-PREFERRED DRUGS

THERAPEUTIC CLASS	RECOMMENDED for NON-PREFERRED STATUS
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	adapalene-benzoyl peroxide 0.1%-2.5% gel pump
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	BPO (benzoyl peroxide) TOWELETTE
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	CLINDACIN P (clindamycin) MED SWAB
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	clindamycin gel
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	CLINDACIN ETZ (clindamycin) MED SWAB
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	clindamycin-tretinoin gel
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	dapsone gel
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	dapsone gel pump
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	ERYGEL (erythromycin base) GEL
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	erthyromycin-benzoyl peroxide 3%-5% gel
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	ARAZLO (tazarotene) LOTION
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	tretinoin gel
ACNE AGENTS, TOPICAL	tretinoin gel pump
ANTIHYPURICEMICS	colchicine capsules
ANTIMIGRAINE AGENTS, PROPHYLAXIS	EMGALITY (galcanezumab-gnlm)
ANTIRETROVIRALS	TEMIXYS (lamivudine/tenofovir df)
ANTICONVULSANTS	XCOPRI (cenobamate) TABLET
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	albuterol sulfate (labeler 00093) HFA
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	albuterol sulfate (labeler 00254) HFA
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	albuterol sulfate (labeler 66993) HFA
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	albuterol sulfate (labeler 45802) HFA
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	albuterol sulfate (labeler 69097) HFA
BRONCHODILATORS, BETA AGONIST	PROVENTIL (albuterol) HFA
CYTOKINE & CAM ANTAGONISTS	COSENTYX (secukinumab)
GLUCOCORTICOIDS, INHALED	fluticasone-salmeterol
GLUCOCORTICOIDS, INHALED	PULMICORT (budesonide) NEBULIZER 0.5MG/2ML AND 0.25 MG/2ML
GLUCOCORTICOIDS, INHALED	QVAR (beclomethasone) REDIHALER
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin aspart prot/insulin asp 70/30 vial
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin aspart prot/insulin asp 70/30 pen
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin lispro kwikpen U-100
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin lispro vial
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin aspart vial
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin aspart flexpen
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin aspart cartridge
HYPOGLYCEMICS, INSULIN AND RELATED AGENTS	insulin lispro junior kwikpen
HYPOGLYCEMICS, SGLT2 INHIBITORS	TRIJARDY (empagliflozin/linagliptin/metformin) XR TABLET
IMMUNOMODULATORS, ATOPIC DERMATITIS	pimecrolimus cream
IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME/SELECTED GI AGENTS	LINZESS 72 mcg (linaclotide) TABLET

## NEW NON-PREFERRED DRUGS

THERAPEUTIC CLASS	RECOMMENDED for NON-PREFERRED STATUS
IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME/SELECTED GI AGENTS	ZELNORM (tegaserod maleate) TABLET
LAXATIVE AND CATHARTICS	CLENPIQ (sodium picosulfate, magnesium oxide, citric acid) SOLUTION
LIPOTROPTICS, OTHER (NON-STATINS)	NEXLETOL (bempedoic acid) TABLET
LIPOTROPTICS, OTHER (NON-STATINS)	NEXLIZET (bempedoic acid/ezetimibe) TABLET
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	AMPYRA (dalfampridine) ER TABLET
OPHTHALMICS FOR ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS	LUMIFY (brimonidine) DROPS
OPHTHALMICS FOR ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS	ZERVIAE (cetirizine) DROPS
OTIC ANTIBIOTICS	ciprofloxacin/fluocinolone vial
SEDATIVE HYPNOTICS	DAYVIGO (lemborexant) TABLET
STIMULANTS AND RELATED AGENTS	METHYLIN (methylphenidate) SOLUTION
STIMULANTS AND RELATED AGENTS	APTENSIO XR (methylphenidate) CAPSULE
STIMULANTS AND RELATED AGENTS	methylphenidate ER capsule