

## FAQs: Empire Plan Pharmacy Vaccination Benefit

### **Q: Who can receive covered vaccinations at retail pharmacies?**

A: Empire Plan enrollees and their covered dependents can have certain preventive vaccines administered at pharmacies in the CVS Caremark vaccine network (not available to enrollees represented by PBA or PIA, or SEHP enrollees).

This benefit only applies to certain enrollees with Empire Plan prescription drug coverage. If you receive your prescription drugs from another source, you are not eligible for this Empire Plan pharmacy benefit.

If you are a Medicare-primary enrollee with Empire Plan Medicare Rx coverage, you already receive this benefit.

### **Q: Which preventive vaccinations are covered?**

A: In the state of New York, licensed pharmacists may administer the Influenza (includes injectable influenza vaccine or flu mist), Shingles (Zostavax), Pneumococcal and Meningococcal vaccines to patients who are age 18 and older.

**Note:** The Shingles vaccine requires a prescription to be administered in a NYS pharmacy. Also note age limits for coverage of the Shingles vaccine in the question “What is the enrollee’s cost to have vaccines administered at a retail pharmacy?” below.

Enrollees living outside of New York State may obtain the four covered vaccines at pharmacies in the CVS Caremark vaccine network with no copayment, providing that applicable state law allows for pharmacist administration of the vaccines.

### **Q: How can I find a pharmacy that administers the covered vaccinations?**

A: CVS Caremark has a national contracted network of more than 56,000 chain and independent pharmacies to administer vaccine coverage for The Empire Plan.

You can locate a network pharmacy on a list available [here](#) (link to EmpirePlanRxProgram.com). After clicking on Locate a Pharmacy, make sure you choose a pharmacy that participates in the vaccine network by selecting the “Vaccine Network” box under the “Advanced Search” options before you search.

You may also call The Empire Plan at 1-877-769-7447 (1-877-7-NYSHIP) and select 4 for the Prescription Drug Program.

### **Q: Does every network pharmacy stock all four vaccines?**

A: Due to stringent storage and handling requirements of certain vaccines, not all are stocked by all pharmacies. Be sure to contact your pharmacy to confirm that they participate in the vaccine network and that they stock the vaccine(s) you need.

### **Q: What are the age restrictions for administration of vaccines by pharmacists?**

A: Licensed pharmacists in New York State may administer vaccines to patients who are age 18 and older. In other states, vaccines may be administered based on age restrictions outlined in applicable state law.

### **Q: What is the enrollee’s cost to have vaccines administered at a retail pharmacy?**

A: For Empire Plan-primary enrollees, the Influenza, Shingles, Pneumococcal and Meningococcal vaccinations are covered in full with no copayment when administered by a licensed pharmacist (subject to applicable state law) at a CVS Caremark vaccine network pharmacy.

Shingles vaccine cost: Empire Plan enrollees who are age 55 to 59 will be charged a Level 1 copayment (\$5) for the Shingles vaccine will apply. Enrollees age 60 and older will have no copayment for the Shingles vaccine.

Medicare-primary enrollees were already eligible to receive these vaccines in a pharmacy with no copayment. Medicare Part B vaccines (flu and pneumonia) were previously available with no copay. The Medicare D vaccines (meningitis and Zoster) had a Level 1 (\$5) copay. This copayment has now been waived, effective October 1.

**Q: What is the effective date for the pharmacy vaccination benefit?**

A: The benefit is effective October 1, 2014.

**Q: I got my flu shot prior to October 1, 2014 at the pharmacy. Can I be reimbursed?**

A: No, only vaccinations received on or after October 1, 2014 are covered by this benefit and no retroactive reimbursement is available.

**Q: Can I still get these vaccinations at my doctor's office? Is there a copayment?**

A: Yes, you may still get vaccinations at your doctor's office without a copayment.

**Q: Can I pick up the vaccine at the pharmacy and have my primary care doctor administer it?**

A: No, the benefit is only covered if a licensed pharmacist administers the vaccine.

**Q: Where can my children get the flu shot?**

A: In New York State, your children under 18 years of age can receive the flu vaccination at their pediatrician's or primary care doctor's office. You will receive the highest level of benefits by using an Empire Plan participating provider, as the vaccine is available at no cost to your child as a preventive care service. If your child receives the flu vaccination from an out-of-network provider, benefits are subject to deductible and coinsurance.

**Q: I have primary health insurance coverage through another employer who doesn't offer this benefit. The Empire Plan is my secondary coverage. Am I eligible?**

A: Yes. Be sure to tell the network pharmacist that you have The Empire Plan as your secondary insurance and provide your Empire Plan ID number so that the vaccine can be processed correctly.

**Q: Where can I find more information about the vaccination benefit?**

A: The upcoming *Empire Plan Report* and *At a Glance* publications will include more information about the vaccination benefit. They will be mailed directly to your home. You can also find these publications online when they are available.

**Q: If I have general questions about vaccine coverage, who can I call?**

A: Your primary care doctor is always your best resource for questions because he or she can address your personal health situation. For additional questions regarding the pharmacy vaccination benefit, call The Empire Plan at 1-877-769-7447 (1-877-7-NYSHIP) and select 4 for the Prescription Drug Program. For general questions about vaccine coverage, select 1 for the Medical Program.