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COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Update

Background:

On November 19, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded eligibility for booster doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. Under the new federal rules, all adults 18 years of age or older can now get either a Pfizer or Moderna booster six months after their last dose. Previously, on October 20, 2021, the FDA approved a single booster dose of the Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine to be administered at least 2 months after completing the single-dose primary regimen for adults 18 years of age and older.

Key Details:

HHSC will update the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) pharmacy benefit coverage for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster to include all adults 18 years of age and older. The FDA has indicated that boosters from any of the drug manufacturers can be mix-and-matched. MCOs must work with their pharmacy benefit managers to modify their systems as necessary to allow coverage for booster doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines with an effective date of November 19, 2021. HHSC will cover the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine as non-risk and will continue to follow the Medicare rate for vaccine administration.