



## Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (IMAPD & GMAPD)

2025 Flu Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2024

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**THIS DOCUMENT IS TO BE USED AS A TOOL ONLY TO VERBALLY ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT MEMBERS. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE ISSUED OR PROVIDED TO PROSPECTIVE ENROLLEES.**

MAPD members can get the flu vaccine **at no cost** from their doctor or from a network pharmacy. Members who get their flu shot by December 31, 2025 can earn a \$10 gift card with our Blue Shield of California Appreciation Program.

There is no additional cost to participate in the Blue Shield of California Appreciation Program.

**1. What should members know?**

Blue Shield MAPD members can obtain their flu vaccine at a network retail pharmacy for a \$0 copay. When a member receives a flu shot at a network pharmacy, the pharmacy will send a real-time claim directly to Blue Shield.

**2. How will members learn about this?**

All MAPD members will receive notification through various communication channels starting in September.

**3. Can members still obtain their flu vaccine through their provider's office?**

Yes. Members may continue to obtain the flu vaccine at the provider's office.

**4. What is the cost through the provider's office?**

\$0 cost share for the office visit and \$0 cost share for the flu vaccine.

**5. Can PDP only members obtain their flu vaccine through a network pharmacy at \$0 copay?**

No. Only MAPD members can obtain the flu vaccine through a network pharmacy at \$0 copay.

## **6. What are the network pharmacy providers?**

This list includes (but is not limited to) the following network pharmacy providers. A more comprehensive list can be found at: [blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2025](http://blueshieldca.com/medpharmacy2025)

- CVS/Pharmacy (including CVS Pharmacies inside Target stores)
- Safeway/Vons
- Costco
- Walmart

## **7. Why is it important to get a flu shot?**

The flu can be deadly. An estimated 50,000 people die from the flu every year in the U.S. (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>), while many more individuals are very ill for a long time with the flu. Children, older adults, and individuals with chronic illness are more likely to become seriously ill from the flu.

The single best way to prevent the flu is by getting the flu vaccine. Just like wearing a seatbelt in the car prevents many injuries, the flu vaccine prevents many people from getting the flu.

Everyone 6 months of age and older is recommended to get the flu vaccine annually. Getting a flu vaccine also protects those around you, especially those at high risk of getting the flu – such as children younger than 2 years old, adults ages 65 and over, pregnant women, people with certain long-term medical conditions, and residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The flu vaccine cannot cause the flu. Most people feel fine after the vaccine, while a few individuals may experience a mild reaction – but nothing like the serious symptoms involved in getting the flu.

Call your doctor about getting a flu vaccine right away. The sooner the better!

## **8. How can members/providers get more information about the flu or flu prevention?**

<https://www.blueshieldca.com/flu>

## **9. How do members get their \$10 gift card for getting their flu shot?**

Members who receive their flu shot by the end-of-year deadline can call the Blue Shield of California Appreciation Program at 1-866-352-0892, [TTY 711], 8:00 AM to

6:00 PM PST, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Members may also go online at [bscappreciation.healthmine.com](http://bscappreciation.healthmine.com) to redeem their reward, once registered. Registration and redemption must be completed by December 31, 2025.

**10. When will members receive their gift card?**

Upon successfully receiving their flu shot and completing the attestation form with the Blue Shield of California Appreciation Program (via call center or on the website), the timeline that members will receive their gift card depends on the type of reward they choose. If digital (distributed through email), members will receive their gift card within 24 hours after the selection of their reward. If physical (distributed through mail), members will receive their gift card within 5-10 business days after the selection of their reward.

**11. What are the gift card options?**

There are 8 options: Starbucks, Subway, Panera Bread, Home Depot, Kroger, Best Buy, CVS Pharmacy, and Safeway. All options are available as digital or physical gift cards.

**12. What should be done if a member does not receive their gift card?**

Please warm transfer the member to the Medicare Member Outreach Team at 1-800-403-1116 [TTY 711], 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM PT, Monday through Friday, or request that they call this number directly.

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