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## Update on the Third primary extension dose for immunocompromised individuals

**Date:** Monday, 1 November 2021 12:05 pm

Further to The Ministry of Health's announcement that a third primary dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for severely immunocompromised patients aged 12 and older, here's some more information.

### *Temporary process*

This service can only be accessed through a consultation with a General Practitioner (GP) or Nurse Practitioner (NP) to assess the patient and issue a prescription and complete the consent form, if clinically indicated.

This is a temporary process and will remain in place until the use of a third primary Pfizer dose for severely immunocompromised people has been approved by Medsafe.

### *Guidance and consent form*

You'll find Ministry of Health guidance (including the policy statement and criteria, an example prescription and the consent form) on HealthPathways: [COVID-19 Vaccination Resources](#). There is an IMAC and Ministry of Health version of the consent form available on HealthPathways. You can use either form.

Attached is a revised CIR Quick Step Guide and an example prescription (also at the above HealthPathways link) and the draft algorithm (awaiting final Ministry approval), which outlines the process and associated funding – see HealthPathways: [COVID-19 Funding and Supplies](#).

### *Funding*

This is a fully subsidised service:

- GP or NP consultation with eligible patient but patient declines: (\$60 plus GST) Record the outcome as 'declined third dose' (date and category noted).
- GP or NP consultation with eligible patient who initially declines but subsequently wishes to proceed with 3rd dose: virtual consultation (\$60 plus GST) or in-person (\$120 plus GST). Record the outcome as 'signed consent form and prescription for third dose' (date and category noted).
- GP or NP consultation with eligible patient and patient accepts: virtual consultation (\$60 plus GST) or in-person (\$120 plus GST). Record the outcome as 'signed consent form and prescription for third dose' (date and category noted).

- Patient calls GP or NP for consultation believing they are eligible but they are not: virtual consultation (\$60 plus GST). Record the outcome recorded as ‘virtual consultation but not eligible for third dose’ (date noted).

### *Conditions of claim*

All the following conditions must be met:

- Clinical notes must be provided.
- No charge/patient co-payment for this service, including issuing the prescription.
- No claims for clawback.
- No simultaneous claiming against any other funding stream for the same activity.

Please note, you do not need to be an accredited COVID-19 vaccinating practice to claim this fee. However, if you are authorised and do provide the vaccination, the PPD POAC vaccine event fee will be paid in addition to this subsidy.

### *POAC process*

Please submit a referral via a POAC form within PMS, using the following code from the dropdown box: ‘**COVID-19 Vaccination – third dose for immunocompromised patients**’ and include one of the following in the free text box as appropriate:

- Include the consultation date and the immunocompromised category (see below), or;
- Include the consultation date, the immunocompromised category (see below) and notes showing the consent form and prescription have been completed, or;
- Include the consultation/contact date but that the person was not eligible.

Select the appropriate immunocompromised category:

1. Patients with primary or acquired immunodeficiency at the time of vaccination.
2. Patients on immunosuppressive or immunomodulating therapy at the time of vaccination.
3. Patients with chronic immune-mediated inflammatory disease who were receiving or had received immunosuppressive therapy prior to vaccination.

Submit your invoice using the following fee schedule (GST inclusive):

- COVID Vax third dose – Virtual consultation (\$69) (\$60 plus GST)
- COVID Vax third dose – In-person consultation (\$138) (\$120 plus GST).

See the link to the [POAC](#) website for the full claiming instructions.

### *Proactive patient contact*

We encourage GP and NP to proactively contact patients to discuss their potential eligibility for the third primary dose. Attached is a generic letter for you to adapt and send to patients who may be eligible, along with an attachment detailing the eligibility criteria.

[COVID\\_19\\_Vaccine\\_example\\_prescription.pdf](#) [1.4 MB]

[COVID-19 vaccine third dose - generic GP letter - final.docx](#) [20.9 KB]

[Draft algorithm.xlsx](#) [17.8 KB]

[NRHCC UAC Vaccine Third Dose Policy A4 - eligiblity criteria.pdf](#) [98.7 KB]

[Record an Additional or Replacement Dose in the CIR Quick Step Guide - F....pdf](#) [1 MB]

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