



Provider Notification

March 3, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccines: Potential Fraud and Schemes

In January 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [healthcare fraud alert](#) to provide information regarding COVID-19 vaccine scams. Please review the information below to better educate your patients and identify possible signs of fraud. Potential COVID-19 vaccine schemes include:

- Advertisements or offers for early vaccine access upon payment of a deposit or fee
- Requests for out-of-pocket payment to obtain the vaccine or to put the beneficiary's name on a COVID-19 vaccine waiting list
- Offers to provide additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine
- Offers to domestically or internationally sell and/or ship vaccine doses in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee
- Unsolicited email, telephone or personal contact from someone claiming medical office, insurance company or COVID-19 vaccine center affiliation. Upon contact, scammers request personal and/or medical information, to allegedly determine beneficiary eligibility for clinical vaccine trials or COVID-19 immunization. The scammers then use the provided information to fraudulently bill federal healthcare programs.
- Unverified claims of FDA vaccine approval
- Social media, telephone, email and online vaccine advertisements from unsolicited/unknown sources
- Phone calls or emails received by beneficiaries that falsely inform them that the government or government officials require them to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

CMS has requested that health plans and providers forward any complaints concerning COVID-19 vaccines or other COVID-19-related items and services to Qlarant, the Investigations Medicare Drug Integrity Contractor (I-MEDIC). Please report any COVID-19 fraud approaches or complaints to the I-MEDIC using this [referral form](#).