

## CHIA CONNECT the Health Information Community

### QUESTION RESPONSES PROVIDED BY VIVIAN THOMAS (VLT), RHIA, CHDA, CPHQ, CHPS, CDIP, CPHIMS AND GLORYANNE BRYANT (GB), RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCDS

- 1) For those that have gotten their vaccine card I have heard the idea to take a picture of it for safe keeping. *(No response needed)*
- 2) My vaccine card includes the manufacturer and lot number. It was administered by Sharp Health, and I scanned a picture to be included in my E.H.R. with KP so it can be part of my medical record. *(No response needed)*
- 3) If the vaccine is effective, why do you have to continue with the 3 Ws (well, the handwashing is obvious) but the distancing and masking seem redundant. Is the vaccine actually effective?
  - a. **(VLT):** *Yes, per the CDC scientific guidance, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have effectiveness approaching 95%, and the newly approved J&J vaccine is effective to prevent hospitalization and deaths for individuals exposed to COVID-19. Vaccinated people, however, can be asymptomatic coronavirus carriers and CDC explains that clinical trials have not established the extent of protection regarding transmission to others. Additionally, there are fast moving mutations with coronavirus variants that are a serious concern -- higher communicability and increased virulence.*
- 4) Our department is asking staff to send us their cards to include in their employee files for safekeeping *(No response needed)*
- 5) Vaccinations captured by the CDM, not coded by HIM *(No response needed)*
- 6) **(VLT):** Here's the link: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#state-report-profile>
- 7) all, how is HIM involved in vaccine rollout at your site? *(No response needed)*
- 8) If the vaccine is effective, I am not understanding why there will still be a need to distance and mask after vaccination.
  - a. **(VLT):** *The need to watch mask-social distance-hand hygiene will be with us to prevent asymptomatic spread – even if vaccinated an individual can be a spreader of the coronavirus. Thanks so very much for enduring the COVID-19 precautionary measures -- we do this in protection of our families, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and anyone we encounter in close proximity that will be exposed to the respiratory transmission.*
- 9) How is a Mass Vaccination Site categorized as?
  - a. **(GB):** *CMS has information on how to enroll as a Mass Immunizer: [Enrollment for Administering COVID-19 Vaccine Shots | CMS](#). In addition, a NonMedicare provider needs to enroll in the vaccine program. A site location needs to be provided. Must have at least 3 MAC jurisdictions as well. Go to: [COVID-19 | CMS](#) or [www.cms.gov/covidvax-provider](http://www.cms.gov/covidvax-provider)*
- 10) Is there any update on the waiver for billing for the COVID vaccine administration for FQHCs?
  - a. **(GB):** *CMS has a dedicated website for FQHCs on COVID...[Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHC\) Center | CMS](#) or [www.c.s.goc/Center/Provider-Type/Federally-Qualified-Health-Centers-FQHC-Center](http://www.c.s.goc/Center/Provider-Type/Federally-Qualified-Health-Centers-FQHC-Center) ALSO see [COVID-19 Vaccines in RHCs and FQHCs- COVID-19 vaccines and their administration will be paid the same way influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and their](#)*

*administration are paid in RHCs and FQHCs. Influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration are paid at 100 percent of reasonable cost through the cost report. The beneficiary coinsurance and deductible are waived. RHCs and FQHCs should include COVID-19 vaccines and their administration costs for patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage on the cost report as well. For additional information, please see <https://www.cms.gov/covidvax>.*

- 11) How are COVID-19 related deaths counted and reported? From death certificates or directly from coding? T
  - a. **(VLT):** *Answered- see next comment*
- 12) The fatality counts are primarily from death certification. This can be challenging... Example: LA COUNTY just discovered 800+ untracked COVID-19 fatalities that occurred during the December surge
- 13) Lack of participation in surveys d/t not working in coding. *(No response needed)*
- 14) Some of the primary "cause of death" listed in the primary field of a death certificate may conflict with principal diagnosis. *(No response needed)*
- 15) Agreed I was hoping for an N/A option *(No response needed)*
- 16) ICD10 inconsistency Issues with Coders coding both ED and Inpatient - non-respiratory manifestations that are coded separately are not consistent between areas *(No response needed)*
- 17) I would love to see the data on healthcare workers not accepting vaccinations.
  - a. **(VLT):** *Unfortunately there is no validated data for Health Care Personnel (HCP) this – yet. The CDC has tracked in-depth data among approximately 4 million individuals in the US, of which 416,222 COVID-19 cases were among health care personnel, including 1,371 fatalities. Dedicated front-line health care workers who have witnessed the ravages of this highly contagious and dangerous coronavirus, are as a majority participating as Phase 1A. There has been some vaccine hesitancy noted among healthcare workers and there are efforts to provide the scientific & accurate information to aid them in their vaccination choice.*