Florida Blue
Your local Blue Cross Blue Shield

April 2021

Special Alert:

Important Information on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

On April 13, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended a pause in the use of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine while they investigate six reported cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot. The pause in the use of the J&J vaccine is out of an abundance of caution.

- As of April 12, approximately 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the U.S.
- The FDA and CDC asked states to temporarily stop administering the J&J vaccine in response to reports of six women – between the ages of 18-48 – who developed a rare and severe type of blood clot after receiving the J&J vaccine in the U.S. Their symptoms developed six to 13 days after they received the J&J vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority for the FDA and CDC. Detailed reviews of each case will be conducted by both agencies to determine whether the vaccine played a role in the serious adverse events.

We are continuing to collaborate with our pharmacy and clinical partners on ways we can deliver vaccines to underserved communities. Following the recommendation by the CDC and FDA, Florida Blue has halted the administration of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine at all of our community events. We are conducting outreach to those who have received the J&J vaccine to answer any questions they may have. The health and safety of our members and the communities we serve is our top priority and we are working closely with state and federal health officials for direction on next steps.

We understand your patients—our members—may have questions and concerns about this recent development. While the likelihood of experiencing a blood clot as a result of getting the J&J COVID-19 vaccine is extremely low, your patients may contact you. We are recommending individuals seek immediate medical attention if they have received the J&J vaccine within the past three weeks and are experiencing severe headaches, shortness of breath or pain in their chest, abdomen or limbs.

With the pause on J&J vaccine administration, your patients still have the option to get a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

This is an evolving situation and we will keep you informed as further updates, guidance and recommendations are provided by the CDC and FDA.

Click to read the Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine.

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