

Buy and Bill Process

Quick Reference Guide

Key Points:

- ➔ Buy and Bill process allows health care providers to obtain medications that they may administer in the office, and bill directly to TriWest Healthcare Alliance.
- ➔ Medication is purchased from a specialty distributor, not a specialty pharmacy. Providers may order a quantity of one medication, or buy in bulk.
- ➔ Providers submit reimbursement claim to pay for the medication reimbursement.
- ➔ Providers are responsible for several steps in the Buy and Bill process.

Providers who administer drugs to patients in their offices are required by TriWest Healthcare Alliance (TriWest) to follow the Community Care Network (CCN) Buy and Bill process. While most of these types of medications are available from a specialty pharmacy, they are not all available as a pharmacy benefit at this time. Therefore, providers must obtain their prescription drugs from a specialty distributor and not a specialty pharmacy.

What is Buy and Bill?

As you know, Buy and Bill is an existing process for providers to obtain specialty medications requiring administration to patients in the office. The “buy” refers to the order and purchase of the medication to dispense in the office. The “bill” refers to providers billing directly to TriWest for reimbursement of the cost of buying the treatment.

Providers can purchase the medication from a specialty distributor (specialty pharmacies are one type of distributor but this includes all specialty distributors). Depending on the medication or product, the provider may order one or buy in bulk to keep on hand in the office.

The medications purchased using the Buy and Bill process are administered in the provider’s office or alternate site of administration (depending on requirements for administration of the specific treatment).

Providers submit claims to TriWest for the medication reimbursement and the office medication administration when this process is used.

TriWest Classification: Proprietary and Confidential

Provider Responsibilities for Specialty Medication in Buy and Bill Program

- ➔ Coordinate care with the local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) if needed to assure long term continuity of treatment, order and payment of the medication, managing medication inventory, and ensuring proper storage
- ➔ Submitting and tracking reimbursement claims for a specialty medication and related professional services
- ➔ Direct administration of product according to manufacturer guidance
- ➔ Timely treatments (planning ahead and assuring timely delivery given the third-party medication shipping and delays that can be inherent to the process)

Buy and Bill Process

Providers who would like to administer treatments in the office setting should follow the process outlined below for Buy and Bill for specialty medications:

1. Ensure the medication is covered for the condition referred under the issued Standard Episode of Care (SEOC). The treatment using the specialty medication should have a valid J code entered on the claim and must be FDA-approved. Investigate benefits (prior authorizations may be required) at [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Formulary Advisor](#)
2. Write a prescription for the medication
3. Order and receive medication from specialty distributor
 - a. Provider must store and monitor their inventory appropriately
4. Administer the medication to the Veteran and document in medical record
5. Submit medical claim for procurement and administration to TriWest (not a pharmacy claim through a PBM)
6. Receive reimbursement from TriWest

Buy and Bill Codes

Providers are responsible for billing and coding claims to ensure reimbursement. Accurate coding in claims is essential to ensure timely reimbursement.

Types of codes:

- ➔ ICD-10 (Diagnosis)
 - International Classification of Diseases
 - Coding for all diseases, disorders, injuries, infections, and symptoms
- ➔ NDC (Drug)
 - National Drug Code
 - A unique 11 digit number used as a universal product identifier for medication in the US
 - The first 4 or 5 digits identify the labeler (e.g.: manufacturer), followed by the product (3 or 4 digits) and package (1 or 2 digits) codes

TriWest Classification: Proprietary and Confidential

- ➔ HCPCS (Procedure)
 - Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
 - Used for medication, supplies, services, and equipment (eg: C-codes and J-codes)
- ➔ CPT (Procedure)
 - Current Procedural Terminology
 - Reports medical services and procedures provided by healthcare professionals
- ➔ Revenue Codes (Payment)
 - Indicate the cost center an individual service on an institutional/facility claim
- ➔ Potential Support
 - Many manufacturers may have patient support programs to help patients gain access to therapy after the medication has been prescribed. Contact the applicable manufacturer for further information.
 - Claims and Reimbursement Support
 - Benefits investigation and Prior Authorization support, including appeals and medical exceptions
 - Information on current coverage policies and step edit requirements
 - Up-to-date billing and coding information (including relevant coding information for EHR updates)
- ➔ Patient Support
 - Patient affordability programs for assistance with medication costs for eligible patients

Read details about the [Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy \(REMS\) safety program](#) used by the FDA uses to monitor the safety of prescription drugs*.

Read details about the Buy and Bill process for the drugs [Spravato](#) and [Fasenra](#)*.

**Links to third party websites are provided for convenience and do not imply any endorsement or sponsorship by TriWest of the third party or vice versa. TriWest is not affiliated with the third parties whose websites are linked on this page. By clicking on these links, you will be leaving this website and will be directed to a third party site, which TriWest has no control over the content. Trademarks used or referenced on this page are the sole property of their respective owners.*