



News Flash – Medicare will cover immunizations for H1N1 influenza also called the "swine flu." There will be no coinsurance or copayment applied to this benefit, and beneficiaries will not have to meet their deductible. H1N1 influenza vaccine is currently under production and will be available in the Fall of 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1> on the CMS website.

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2010 Annual Participation Enrollment Program Extension

Note: This article was revised on December 22, 2009, to show that the 2010 Annual Participation Enrollment Program has been extended through March 17, 2010.

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians currently participating in Medicare or considering participation during 2010.

What You Need to Know

Due to recent revisions that were made to the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has extended the 2010 Annual Participation Enrollment Program end date from December 31, 2009, to **March 17, 2010** – therefore, the enrollment period now runs from November 13, 2009, through March 17, 2010. The effective date for any Participation status change during the extension, however, remains January 1, 2010; and will be in force for the entire year.

Medicare contractors (carriers and Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) will accept and process any participation elections or withdrawals, made during the extended enrollment period that are received or post-marked on or before March 17, 2010.

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Background

This is an extension of the annual participation enrollment period dates in CR 6637 (Transmittal 1832 -- Calendar Year (CY) 2010 Participation Enrollment and Medicare Participating Physicians and Suppliers Directory (MEDPARD) Procedures), dated October 16, 2009. CR 6637 is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1832CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

The Participation Agreement (CMS-Form 460) is available on the CD-ROM that is sent out annually by your Medicare contractor during the Annual Participation Enrollment period. Your contractor will also make the Participation Agreement available to you by placing it on their websites with Participation enrollment (and termination) instructions.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website. The addresses of Medicare contractors' websites are available at this location as well.

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