



MLN Matters®



Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals



News Flash – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a Town Hall meeting on the Physician Compare Web site on October 27, 2010. Anyone interested in attending the meeting or participating by teleconference must register by completing the online registration at <http://www.usqualitymeasures.org/qm> on the Internet.

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2010 - 2011 Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals

Note: This article was updated on August 27, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. Previously, this article was revised on November 29, 2010, to include a reference to MLN Matters® article MM7234 (New HCPCS Q-codes for 2010-2011 Seasonal Influenza Vaccines). All other information is the same.

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) physicians, non-physician practitioners, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals who order, refer, or provide seasonal flu vaccines and vaccine administration provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Provider Action Needed

- Keep this Special Edition *MLN Matters* article and refer to it throughout the 2010 - 2011 flu season.
- Take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to encourage your patients to protect themselves from the seasonal flu and serious complications by getting a seasonal flu shot.
- Continue to provide the seasonal flu shot as long as you have vaccine available, even after the new year.

Disclaimer

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- Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff.

Introduction

Annual outbreaks of seasonal flu typically occur from the late fall through early spring. Typically, 5 to 20 percent of Americans catch the seasonal flu, with about 36,000 people dying from flu-related causes.¹ Complications of flu can include pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and even death.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare Part B reimburses health care providers for seasonal flu vaccines and their administration. *(Medicare provides coverage of the seasonal flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)* All adults 65 and older should get seasonal flu vaccine. People with Medicare who are under 65 but have chronic illness, including heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or end-stage renal disease should get a seasonal flu shot.

Get the Flu Vaccine, Not the Flu!

Unlike last flu season patients needed to get both a seasonal vaccine and a separate vaccine for the H1N1 virus, this season, a single seasonal flu vaccine will protect your patients, your staff, and yourself.

The seasonal flu vaccine continues to be the most effective method for preventing flu virus infection and its potentially severe complications. You can help your Medicare patients reduce their risk for contracting seasonal flu and serious complications by using every office visit as an opportunity to recommend they take advantage of the annual seasonal flu shot benefit covered by Medicare. And don't forget, health care providers and their staff can spread the highly contagious flu virus to their patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff.

The following educational products have been developed by CMS to be used by Medicare FFS health care professionals and are not intended for distribution to Medicare beneficiaries.

Educational Products for Health Care Professionals

CMS has developed a variety of educational resources to help Medicare FFS health care professionals understanding coverage, coding, billing, and reimbursement guidelines for seasonal flu vaccines and their administration.

1. MLN Matters Seasonal Influenza Articles

¹ Flu.gov. 2010. *About the Flu [online]*. Washington D.C.: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010 [cited 16 August 2010]. Available from the World Wide Web: <http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/about/index.html>

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- **MM7120:** Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2010-2011 Season at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7120.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **SE1026:** Important News About Flu Shot Frequency for Medicare Beneficiaries at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1026.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM 7124:** 2010 Reminder for Roster Billing and Centralized Billing for Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7124.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM6608:** Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances – Annual Update for 2009-2010 Season at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6608.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM5511:** Update to Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18, Section 10 for Part B Influenza Billing at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5511.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM4240:** Guidelines for Payment of Vaccine (Pneumococcal Pneumonia Virus, Influenza Virus, and Hepatitis B Virus) Administration at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4240.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM5037:** Reporting of Diagnosis Code V06.6 on Influenza Virus and/or Pneumococcal Pneumonia Virus (PPV) Vaccine Claims and Acceptance of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Code 90660 for the Reporting of the Influenza Virus Vaccine at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5037.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM7234:** New HCPCS Q-codes for 2010-2011 Seasonal Influenza Vaccines at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare->

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[Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7234.pdf](#) on the CMS website.

2. MLN Seasonal Influenza Related Products for Health Care Professionals

- **Quick Reference Information: Medicare Part B Immunization Billing** - This two-sided laminated chart provides Medicare FFS physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals with quick information to assist with filing claims for the seasonal influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. Available in print and as a downloadable PDF at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf on the CMS website.
- **The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals, Third Edition** - This updated comprehensive guide to Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings provides Medicare FFS physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals information on coverage, coding, billing, and reimbursement guidelines of preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare. The guide includes a chapter on seasonal influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. Also includes suggestions for planning a flu clinic and information for mass immunizers and roster billers. Available as a downloadable PDF file at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf on the CMS website.
- **The Medicare Preventive Services Series Part 1 Web-Based Training Course (WBT)** – This WBT contains lessons Medicare-covered preventive vaccinations, including the seasonal influenza vaccine. To take the course, visit the Medicare Preventive Services Educational Products page at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> on the internet. Scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and choose “Web-Based Training (WBT) Modules”.
- **Medicare Preventive Services Adult Immunizations Brochure** - This two-sided tri-fold brochure provides health care professionals with an overview of Medicare’s coverage of influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. Available as a downloadable PDF file at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network->

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[MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult_Immunization.pdf](#) on the CMS website.

- **Quick Reference Information: Medicare Preventive Services** - This two-sided laminated chart gives Medicare FFS physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals a quick reference to Medicare's preventive services and screenings, identifying coding requirements, eligibility, frequency parameters, and copayment/coinsurance and deductible information for each benefit. This chart includes seasonal influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines. Available in print or as a downloadable PDF file at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf on the CMS website.
- **MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page** - This Medicare Learning Network (MLN) web page provides descriptions of all MLN preventive services related educational products and resources designed specifically for use by Medicare FFS health care professionals. PDF files provide product ordering information and links to all downloadable products, including those related to the seasonal influenza vaccine and its administration. This web page is updated as new product information becomes available. Bookmark <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> for easy access.

3. Other CMS Resources

- CMS Adult Immunizations Web Page is at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html> on the CMS website.
- CMS Frequently Asked Questions are available at <http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/> on the CMS website.
- Medicare Benefit Policy Manual - Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2 – Immunizations available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c15.pdf> on the CMS website.
- Medicare Claims Processing Manual – Chapter 18, Preventive and Screening Services available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c18.pdf> on the CMS website.

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[Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c18.pdf](#) on the internet.

- Medicare Part B Drug Average Sales Price Payment Amounts Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines Pricing found at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/index.html> on the CMS website.

4. *Other Resources*

The following non-CMS resources are just a few of the many available in which clinicians may find useful information and tools to help increase seasonal flu vaccine awareness and utilization during the 2009 – 2010 flu season:

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices are at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip/default.htm> on the Internet.
- American Lung Association's Influenza (Flu) Center is at <http://www.lungusa.org> on the Internet. This website provides a flu clinic locator at <http://www.flucliniclocator.org> on the Internet. Individuals can enter their zip code to find a flu clinic in their area. Providers can also obtain information on how to add their flu clinic to this site.
- Other sites with helpful information include:
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>;
- Flu.gov - <http://www.flu.gov/>;
- Food and Drug Administration - <http://www.fda.gov/>;
- Immunization Action Coalition - <http://www.immunize.org/>;
- Indian Health Services - <http://www.ihs.gov/>;
- National Alliance for Hispanic Health - <http://www.hispanichealth.org/>;
- National Foundation For Infectious Diseases - <http://www.nfid.org/influenza/>;
- National Library of Medicine and NIH Medline Plus - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/immunization.html>;
- National Network for Immunization Information - <http://www.immunizationinfo.org/>;
- National Vaccine Program - <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/>;

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- Office of Disease Prevention and Promotion - <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov>;
- Partnership for Prevention - <http://www.prevent.org>; and
- World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int/en> on the Internet.

Beneficiary Information

For information to share with your Medicare patients, please visit <http://www.medicare.gov> on the Internet.

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