



Provider Inquiry Assistance

2008 - 2009 Influenza (Flu) Season Resources for Health Care Professionals – JA0838

Note: This job aid was changed to update website links that have changed on page 4.

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Key Words

SE0838, Influenza, Flu, Educational, Pneumococcal

- Medicare Carriers
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs)
- Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)
- Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

Provider Types Affected

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



- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare Part B reimburses health care providers for flu vaccines and their administration.
- Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.
- Providers can help their 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 flu shot benefit covered by Medicare.
- CMS has developed a variety of educational resources to help Medicare FFS health care professionals understanding coverage, coding, billing, and reimbursement guidelines for flu vaccines and their administration.

 Educational Products for Health Care Professionals

1. MLN Matters® Articles

- **MM6153:** "Influenza Vaccine and the Pneumococcal Vaccine Payment Allowances Based on 95 Percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP)" at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6153.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM6121:** "2008 Reminder for Roster Billing and Centralized Billing for Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations" at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6121.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM6079:** "Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Influenza Virus, and Hepatitis B Vaccines" at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6079.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.hhs.gov/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.hhs.gov/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.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5037.pdf> on the CMS website.

Provider Needs to Know...

2. MLN 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 influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. This is available in print and as a downloadable PDF at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/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, Second 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 influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. Also includes suggestions for planning a flu clinic and information for
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mass immunizers and roster billers. This is available as a downloadable PDF file at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf on the CMS website.

- **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. This is available in print and as a downloadable PDF file at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult_Immunization.pdf on the CMS website.
- **Medicare Preventive Services Series: Part 1 Adult Immunizations Web-based Training (WBT) Course** - This WBT course contains four modules that include information about Medicare's coverage of influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines. Module Four includes lessons on mass immunizers, roster billing, and centralized billing. To register, free of charge, to take this course go to the MLN Products web page <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/> and select "Web-Based Training Modules" from Related Links Inside CMS at the bottom of the web page.
- **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 influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines. This is available in print or as a downloadable PDF file at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf on the CMS website.
- **Medicare Preventive Services Bookmark** - This bookmark lists the preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare (including influenza) and serves as a handy reminder for health care professionals of the many preventive benefits covered by Medicare. Appropriate for use as a give away at conferences and other provider related gatherings. This is available in print or as a downloadable PDF file at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/medprevsrvcesbkmrk.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 influenza vaccine and its administration. This web page is updated as new product information becomes available. Bookmark this page (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp#TopOfPage) for easy access.

3. *Other CMS Resources*

- CMS Adult Immunizations Web Page is at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AdultImmunizations/> on the CMS website.
- CMS Frequently Asked Questions are available at http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfq/php/enduser/std_alp.php?p_sid=I3ALEDhi on the CMS website.
- *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* - Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2 – Immunizations available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/bp102c15.pdf> on the CMS website.
- *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Chapter 18, Preventive and Screening Services available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c18.pdf> on the CMS website.
- Medicare Part B Drug Average Sales Price Payment Amounts Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines Pricing found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvqSalesPrice/01_overview.asp 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 flu vaccine awareness and utilization during the 2008 – 2009 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/>;
 - Food and Drug Administration - <http://www.fda.gov/>;
 - Immunization Action Coalition - <http://www.immunize.org/>;
 - Immunization: Supporting a Healthy Life Throughout the Lifespan - <http://www.nfid.org/pdf/publications/naiaw08.pdf>;
 - Indian Health Services - <http://www.ihs.gov/>;
 - Medicare Quality Improvement Community - <http://www.qualitynet.org/>;
 - National Alliance for Hispanic Health - <http://www.hispanichealth.org/>;
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- The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncird/>
 - 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>;
 - 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
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Background

- The flu vaccine has been an under-utilized benefit by Medicare beneficiaries.
 - Nearly 36,000 people die every year in the United States from seasonal flu and complications arising from the flu. The majority of deaths occur in persons 65 years of age and older.
 - Adults 65 and older should get flu and pneumococcal immunizations.
 - People with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, and people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities are considered to be at high risk for serious complications from the flu.
 - Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.
 - While flu season can begin as early as October and last as late as May the optimal time to get a flu vaccine is in October or November. However, protection can still be obtained if the flu vaccine is given in December or later.
 - Providers should continue to provide the flu shot as long as they have vaccine available, even after the new year. They should immunize themselves and their staff.
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Operational
Impact

N/A

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0838.pdf> on the CMS
website.

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