



Provider Inquiry Assistance

2009 - 2010 Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals – JA0926

Note: MLN Matters® article SE0926 was revised to include a link to MLN Matters® article MM6608, which includes the payment allowances for the 2009-2010 influenza vaccine. The link to that article may be found on page 2 below.

Related CR Release Date: N/A **Revised**

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Key Words SE0926, Influenza, Flu, Pneumococcal

Contractors Affected

- Medicare Carriers
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Durable Medical Equipment MACs (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.
- **Prevention is Key to Public Health!**

Important information about H1N1

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.

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**1. MLN Matters® Seasonal Influenza Articles**

- **MM6608:** "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances – Annual Update for 2009-2010 Season" at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6608.pdf> on the CMS website.
- **MM6539:** "2009 Reminder for Roster Billing and Centralized Billing for Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations" at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6539.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 seasonal influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. This product is available in print and as a downloadable PDF at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/gr_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. It also includes suggestions for planning a flu clinic and information for mass immunizers and roster billers. The guide 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 brochure is available as a downloadable PDF file at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/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. This chart 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 seasonal influenza) and serves as a handy reminder for health care professionals of the many preventive benefits covered by Medicare. It is appropriate for use as a give away at conferences and other provider related gatherings. This bookmark is available in print or as a downloadable PDF file at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/medprevsrvcspbkmrk.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. Providers may bookmark this page (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp) for easy access.
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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.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php?p_sid=I3ALEDhi on the CMS website.
- *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* - Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2 – Immunizations is 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 is 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 is found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/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>;
 - Flu.gov - <http://www.flu.gov>;
 - 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/>;

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- 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>;
 - 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

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- 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 seasonal flu and pneumococcal immunizations.
 - People with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are considered to be at high risk for serious complications from the flu, as are people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
 - 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.
 - 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, this year, due to planning for H1N1 flu, Medicare will make payment for seasonal flu vaccines that are provided earlier in the year than usual.
 - Seasonal flu vaccines can still help protect Medicare beneficiaries who get the vaccine in December or later. The flu vaccine continues to be the most effective method for preventing flu virus infection and its potentially severe complications.
 - 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
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Reference Materials	The related MLN Matters® article can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0926.pdf on the CMS website. For information to share with their Medicare patients, providers may visit http://www.medicare.gov on the Internet.
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