



Influenza Vaccine and the Pneumococcal Vaccine Payment Allowances Based on 95 Percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) – JA6153

Related CR Release Date : October 31, 2008

Date Job Aid Revised: November 10, 2008

Effective Date: September 1, 2008

Implementation Date: No later than December 1, 2008

Key Words	MM6153, CR6153, R1623CP, Influenza, Vaccine, Pneumococcal
Contractors Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Carriers • Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) • Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
Provider Types Affected	Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers, FIs, and/or A/B MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6153 provides the updated payment allowances, effective as of September 1, 2008, for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP.

Provider Needs to Know...

- Change Request (CR) 6153 provides the payment allowances for the following vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP:
 - **Influenza virus vaccines** (Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, and 90660); and
 - **Pneumococcal vaccines** (CPT codes 90732 and 90669).

- Effective September 1, 2008, these Medicare Part B payment allowances for influenza vaccines are:
 - 90655 – \$16.879
 - 90656 - \$18.198
 - 90657 - \$6.609
 - 90658 - \$13.218.
- CPT 90660 (FluMist, a nasal influenza vaccine) may be covered if the local Medicare claims processing contractor determines its use is medically reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary. When payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP, the Medicare Part B payment allowance for CPT 90660 is \$22.316 (effective September 1, 2008).
- The Medicare Part B payment allowance for the pneumococcal vaccine CPT 90732 is \$32.703, and for CPT 90669 is \$78.803. These payment allowances were published as a part of the July 2008 Quarterly Average Sales Price Drug Pricing Files, as specified in CR6049. To view the article related to CR6049, providers can go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6049.pdf> on the CMS website.
- The Medicare Part B payment allowance limits for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are 95 percent of the AWP as reflected in the published compendia except where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, rural health clinic, or federally qualified health center, in which cases, payments for the vaccines are based on reasonable cost.
- Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply to these vaccines.
- All physicians, non-physician practitioners and suppliers who administer the influenza virus vaccination and the pneumococcal vaccination must take assignment on the claim for the vaccine.

Background

- The payment allowances for influenza vaccines are updated on an annual basis effective September 1 of each year.
- The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are updated on a quarterly basis.

**Operational
Impact**

Medicare contractors will not search their files to adjust payment on claims paid incorrectly prior to implementing CR6153. However, they will adjust such claims that are brought to their attention.

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters article can be found at
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6153.pdf> on the CMS
website.

The official instruction (CR6153) regarding this change may be viewed at
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1623CP.pdf> on the CMS website.
