



## Provider Inquiry Assistance

### Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2009-2010 Season – JA6608

Related CR Release Date: October 2, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: October 8, 2009

Effective Date: September 1, 2009

Implementation Date: November 2, 2009

**Key Words** MM6608, CR6608, R1824CP, Influenza, Vaccine, Payment, Allowances

**Contractors Affected**

- 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 influenza vaccines provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6608 updates payment allowances, effective September 1, 2009, for influenza vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP).

**Provider Needs to Know...**

- The payment allowances for influenza vaccines are updated on an annual basis effective September 1 of each year. CR6608 provides the payment allowances for the following influenza virus vaccines (Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, and 90660) when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP.
- For information about billing the H1N1 influenza vaccine, providers should see the MLN Matters® article at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6617.pdf> on the CMS website.
- Effective September 1, 2009, these Medicare Part B payment allowances for influenza vaccines are as follows:

CPT Code	Allowance
90655	\$15.447
90656	\$12.541
90657	\$5.684
90658	\$11.368

- CPT 90660 (FluMist, a nasal influenza vaccine) may be covered if the local Medicare 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, 2009).
- These payment allowances were published as a part of the July 2009 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files, as specified in CR6471. Providers can view this at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6471.pdf> on the CMS website.

**Background**

- The Medicare Part B payment allowance limits for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are 95 percent of the AWP as reflected in the published compendia.
- **The exception to this** is when the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, Rural Health Clinic, or Federally Qualified Health Center. In these cases, payments for the vaccines are based on reasonable cost.
- **The 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.

**Operational Impact**

Medicare contractors will not search their files to adjust payment on claims paid incorrectly prior to implementing CR6608. However, they will adjust such claims that providers bring to their attention.

**Reference Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6608.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR4100) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1824CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services (CMS) would like providers to be aware that educational products are available through the MLN Catalogue free of charge. The MLN Catalogue is available at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf> on the CMS website. The specific products that may be of interest to providers who use the information in MM6608 are:

- The **Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information Chart: Medicare Part B Immunization Billing** (Influenza, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B), which is available at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/gr\\_immun\\_bill.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/gr_immun_bill.pdf) and
  - The **Adult Immunizations** brochure provides a basic overview of Medicare's influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccine benefits and is available at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult\\_Immunization.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult_Immunization.pdf) on the CMS website.
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