



Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2017-2018 Season

MLN Matters Number: MM10224

Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR 10224

Related CR Release Date: November 3, 2017 Effective Date: August 1, 2017

Related CR Transmittal Number: R3908CP Implementation Date: No later than October 2, 2017

Note: This article was revised on November 16, 2017, to add a link to related article [SE17026](#) which updates the Medicare Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes and payment rates for personal flu and pneumococcal vaccines for 2017-2018. All other information is unchanged.

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians and other providers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for influenza vaccines provided to Medicare beneficiaries

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Change Request (CR 10224 informs MACs about the payment allowances for seasonal influenza virus vaccines, which are updated on August 1 of each year. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will post the payment allowances for influenza vaccines that are approved after the release of CR10224 at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>. Make sure your billing staffs are aware that the payment allowances are being updated.

BACKGROUND

The Medicare Part B payment allowance limits for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) as reflected in the published compendia except where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Where the vaccine is furnished in the hospital outpatient department, RHC, or FQHC, payment for the vaccine is based on reasonable cost.

The Medicare Part B payment allowances for the following Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes below apply for the

effective dates of August 1, 2017-July 31, 2018:

- CPT 90653 Payment allowance is \$50.217.
- CPT 90655 Payment allowance is pending.
- CPT 90656 Payment allowance is \$19.247.
- CPT 90657 Payment allowance is pending.
- CPT 90661 Payment allowance is pending.
- CPT 90685 Payment allowance is \$21.198.
- CPT 90686 Payment allowance is \$19.032.
- CPT 90687 Payment allowance is \$9.403.
- CPT 90688 Payment allowance is \$17.835.
- HCPCS Q2035 Payment allowance is \$17.685.
- HCPCS Q2036 Payment allowance is pending.
- HCPCS Q2037 Payment allowance is \$17.685.
- HCPCS Q2038 Payment allowance is pending.

Payment for the following CPT or HCPCS codes may be made if your MAC determines its use is reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary, for the effective dates of August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018:

- CPT 90630 Payment allowance is \$20.343.
- CPT 90654 Payment allowance is pending.
- CPT 90662 Payment allowance is \$49.025.
- CPT 90672 Payment allowance is pending.
- CPT 90673 Payment allowance is \$40.613.
- CPT 90674 Payment allowance is \$24.047.
- CPT 90682 Payment allowance is \$46.313. (New code)
- CPT 90756 Payment allowance is \$22.793. Effective dates: 1/1/2018-7/31/2018 (Note: Providers and Medicare Administrative Contractors shall use HCPCS Q2039 for dates of service from 8/1/2017 – 12/31/2017. See special note under HCPCS Q2039 for payment amounts for this product prior to 1/1/2018.)
- HCPCS Q2039 Flu Vaccine Adult - Not Otherwise Classified. Payment allowance is to be determined by your MAC with effective dates of 8/1/2017 - 7/31/2018.

Special note: Until CPT code 90756 is implemented on 1/1/2018, Q2039 shall be used for products described by the following language: influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (ccIV4), derived from cell cultures, subunit, antibiotic free, 0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use. The payment allowance for these products, effective for dates of service 8/1/2017 - 12/31/2017 is \$22.793.

CMS will post payment limits for influenza vaccines that are approved after the release date of CR10224 on the CMS Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing webpage at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html> as information becomes available. Effective dates for these vaccines shall be the date of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are based on 95 percent of the AWP and are updated on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files.

Providers should note that:

- 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.
- The annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply.

Note: MACs will reprocess any previously processed and paid claims for the current flu season, that were paid using influenza vaccine payment allowances other than the allowances published in the influenza vaccine pricing website for the 2017/2018 season that began on August 1, 2017. MACs will initiate the mass adjustment process to reprocess claims by November 1, 2017. A MAC that requires more time to meet this deadline may contact their Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for additional direction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10224, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R3908CP.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 16, 2017	This article was revised to add a link to related article SE17026 which updates the Medicare HCPCS and CPT codes and payment rates for personal flu and pneumococcal vaccines for 2017-2018.
November 3, 2017	The article was revised to reflect an updated Change Request (CR). That CR changed the instruction to the MACs for searching files- see note on page 3 above. The CR release date, transmittal number and link to the transmittal also changed.
November 2, 2017	This article was revised to add a reference to MLN Matters Article SE17026 which reminds health care professionals that Medicare Part B reimburses health care providers for flu vaccines and their administration. <i>(Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)</i>
August 18, 2017	Initial article released.

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