



**News Flash** – 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. For more information, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6752

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6752

Related CR Release Date: December 11, 2009

Effective Date: March 11, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R1869CP

Implementation Date: March 11, 2010

## New Place of Service (POS) Code for Walk-in Retail Health Clinic

### Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians; non-physician practitioners; Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC); Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities (IDTFs); Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers; and Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories submitting claims to Medicare carriers, Parts A and B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) and DME MACs.

### Provider Action Needed

This article, based on CR 6752, advises you that the current place of service (POS) code set has been updated to add a new code of 17 (Walk-in Retail Health Clinic). The code's description is as follows: "a walk-in health clinic, other than an office, urgent care facility, pharmacy or independent clinic and not described by any other Place of Service code, that is located within a retail operation and provides, on an ambulatory basis, preventive and primary care services."

**Note: For the health care industry, the HIPAA effective date of the new POS code for walk-in retail health clinics is no later than May 1, 2010, with covered entities permitted to use it at any time after which the new code is posted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) POS webpage.**

You need to know that Medicare has not identified a need for this new code. Therefore, you should continue to use the billing instructions for immunizations described in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18, Section 10.

#### Disclaimer

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## Background

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As an entity covered under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Medicare must comply with standards and their implementation guides adopted by regulation under this statute. The currently adopted professional implementation guide for the ASC X12 837 standards requires that each electronic claim transaction include a POS code from the POS code set maintained by CMS. As a payer, Medicare must be able to recognize as valid any valid code from the POS code set that appears on the HIPAA standard claim transaction. In accordance with HIPAA, Medicare will be able to recognize POS code 17 as valid by May 1, 2010, with plans to do so by March 11, 2010.

The new code 17 was established because industry entities other than Medicare identified a need to track the suppliers and settings of immunizations in greater detail than afforded through the current POS code set; these entities specifically wished to capture the walk-in retail health clinic, which they believe will be a common setting for immunizations.

Medicare has not identified a need for this new code, and physicians and other providers/suppliers are instructed to continue to use the billing instructions for immunizations described in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18, Section 10.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR 6752, issued to your carrier, A/B MAC, or DME MAC regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1869CP.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, A/B MAC, or DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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