

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



NEW product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)
“[Communicating With Your Medicare Patients](#)”, Fact Sheet, ICN 908063, Downloadable

MLN Matters® Number: MM8047

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8047

Related CR Release Date: October 3, 2012

Effective Date: August 1, 2012

Related CR Transmittal #: R2562CP

Implementation Date: No later than December 28, 2012

Note: This article was revised on April 8, 2014, to add a link to MM8249 (<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM8249.pdf>) that alerts physicians and providers to recent updates in vaccine codes that may affect their Medicare billing. All other information is unchanged.

Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2012-2013 Season

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for influenza vaccines provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Change Request (CR) 8047 in order to update payment allowances, effective August 1, 2012, for seasonal influenza virus vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP). Be sure your billing staffs are aware of this update.

Disclaimer

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Background

CR8047 provides payment allowances for the following seasonal influenza virus vaccine codes when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP (except for when payment is based on reasonable cost where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, a Rural Health Clinic, or a Federally Qualified Health Center):

- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90654, 90655, 90656, 90657, 90660, and 90662; and
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes Q2034, Q2035, Q2036, Q2037, and Q2038.

Effective for dates of service on or after August 1, 2012, the Medicare Part B payment allowance for:

- CPT 90655 is \$16.456
- CPT 90656 is \$12.398
- CPT 90657 is \$6.023
- HCPCS Q2035 (Afluria®) is \$11.543
- HCPCS Q2036 (Flulaval®) is \$9.833
- HCPCS Q2037 (Fluvirin®) is \$14.051
- HCPCS Q2038 (Fluzone®) is \$12.046

Note: The Medicare Part B payment allowance for HCPCS Q2034 (Agriflu®) and HCPCS Q2039 (Flu Vaccine Adult - Not Otherwise Classified) will be determined by the local claims processing contractor.

Payment for the following may be made if the local claims processing contractor determines its use is medically reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary:

- CPT 90654 (Flu vaccine, Intradermal, Preservative free (Fluzone ID®));
- CPT 90660 (FluMist®, a nasal influenza vaccine); or
- CPT 90662 (Fluzone High-Dose®).

Effective for dates of service on or after August 1, 2012, when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP, the Medicare Part B payment allowance for:

- CPT 90654 is \$18.981
- CPT 90660 is \$23.456
- CPT 90662 is \$30.923

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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.

Note: Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply. 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.

Medicare contractors will not search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims. However, contractors will adjust claims brought to their attention.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR8047, issued to your Medicare contractor (carrier, (FI), and A/B MAC) regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2562CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, (FI), or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Vaccination is the Best Protection Against the Flu - Each office visit is an opportunity to check your patients' seasonal influenza (flu) and pneumonia immunization status and to start protecting your patients as soon as your 2012-2013 seasonal flu vaccine arrives. Ninety percent of flu-related deaths and more than half of flu-related hospitalizations occur in people age 65 and older. Seniors also have an increased risk of getting pneumonia, a complication of the flu. Remind your patients that seasonal flu vaccinations and a pneumococcal vaccination are recommended for optimal protection.

Medicare provides coverage for one seasonal influenza virus vaccine per influenza season for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare generally provides coverage of pneumococcal vaccination and its administration once in a lifetime for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare may provide coverage of additional pneumococcal vaccinations based on risk or uncertainty of beneficiary pneumococcal vaccination status. Medicare provides coverage for these vaccines and their administration with no co-pay or deductible. Also, don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. *Know what to do about the flu.*

Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration is a covered Part B benefit. Influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. CMS will provide information and a link to the 2012-2013 Influenza Vaccine prices when they are available. For more information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccine and its administration, please visit the [CMS Medicare Learning Network® Preventive Services Educational Products](#) and [CMS Immunizations](#) web pages. While some providers may offer the flu vaccine, others can help their patients locate a vaccine provider within their local community. [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu vaccines.

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