

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



REVISED products from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- "[General Equivalence Mappings Frequently Asked Questions](#)," Booklet, ICN 901743, hard copy only.

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2013-2014 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals

Note: This article was revised on November 7, 2013, to add a reference to MLN Matters® Article MM8249 on page 2. All other information is unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Special Edition article is intended for all health care professionals who order, refer, or provide flu vaccines and vaccine administration to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

- Keep this Special Edition *MLN Matters*® article and refer to it throughout the 2013 - 2014 flu season.

Disclaimer

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- Take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to encourage your patients to protect themselves from the flu and serious complications by getting a flu shot.
- Continue to provide the flu shot as long as you have vaccine available, even after the new year.
- Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff.

Introduction

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare Part B reimburses health care providers for flu vaccines and their administration. (*Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.*)

You can help your Medicare patients reduce their risk for contracting seasonal flu and serious complications by using every office visit as an opportunity to recommend they take advantage of Medicare's coverage of the annual flu shot.

As a reminder, please help prevent the spread of flu by immunizing yourself and your staff!

Know What to Do About the Flu!

Educational Products for Health Care Professionals

The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) has developed a variety of educational resources to help you understand Medicare guidelines for seasonal flu vaccines and their administration.

1. MLN Influenza Related Products for Health Care Professionals

- *MLN Matters® Article MM8433: Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances – Annual Update for 2013-2014 Season* – <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM8433.pdf>
- *MLN Matters® Article MM8249: New Influenza Virus and Hepatitis B Virus Vaccine Codes* - <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM8249.pdf>
- *Quick Reference Information: Medicare Part B Immunization Billing chart* - http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf
- *Quick Reference Information: Preventive Services chart* - http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/Downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf

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- *Preventive Immunizations booklet* – <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Preventive-Immunizations-ICN907787.pdf>
- *MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page* - <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/PreventiveServices.html>
- *Preventive Services Educational Products PDF* – http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/education_products_prevserv.pdf

2. Other CMS Resources

- Seasonal Influenza Vaccines 2013 Pricing - <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/2013ASPFiles.html>
- Immunizations web page is located at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html>
- Prevention General Information is located at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/index.html>
- CMS Frequently Asked Questions - <http://questions.cms.gov/faq.php>
- Medicare Benefit Policy Manual - Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2 – Immunizations - <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c15.pdf>
- Medicare Claims Processing Manual – Chapter 18, Preventive and Screening Services <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c18.pdf>

3. Other Resources

The following non-CMS resources are just a few of the many available where you may find useful information and tools for the 2013 – 2014 flu season:

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices - <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>
- Flu Clinic Locator - <http://www.flucliniclocator.org>
- Other sites with helpful information include:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>;
 - Flu.gov - <http://www.flu.gov>;

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- Food and Drug Administration - <http://www.fda.gov>;
- Immunization Action Coalition - <http://www.immunize.org>;
- Indian Health Services - <http://www.ihs.gov>;
- National Alliance for Hispanic Health - <http://www.hispanichealth.org>;
- National Foundation For Infectious Diseases - <http://www.nfid.org/influenza>;
- National Library of Medicine and NIH Medline Plus - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/immunization.html>;
- National Network for Immunization Information - <http://www.immunizationinfo.org>;
- National Vaccine Program - <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo>;
- Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion - <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov>;
- Partnership for Prevention - <http://www.prevent.org>; and
- World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int/en>

Beneficiary Information

For information to share with your Medicare patients, please visit <http://www.medicare.gov> on the Internet.

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; however, Medicare may cover 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.

Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. *Protect yourself from the flu.*

Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration is a covered Part B benefit. Influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. 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 health care professionals 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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