



Flu Shot Reminder

As a respected source of health care information, patients trust their doctors' recommendations. If you have Medicare patients who haven't yet received their flu shot, help protect them by recommending an annual influenza and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Medicare provides coverage for flu and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration. – And don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. **Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends.** Get Your Flu Shot. Remember - Influenza vaccination is a covered Part B benefit. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For more information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and educational resources, go <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/SE0667.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5486

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5486

Related CR Release Date: December 29, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R1146CP

Implementation Date: January 29, 2007

Payment by DME MACs and DMERCs for the Administration of Part D Vaccines

Note: This article was updated on June 5, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Medicare-enrolled pharmacies who bill Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) or Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) for administration of Part D vaccines to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

CR 5486, from which this article was taken, implements the payment policy for the administration of Part D-covered vaccines furnished by Medicare-enrolled pharmacies.

During calendar year 2007, you may be paid under Medicare Part B for the administration of a Part D-covered vaccine furnished to a Medicare beneficiary during 2007 only if you are enrolled with the National Supplier Clearinghouse and the beneficiary is enrolled in Part D.

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Background

Section 202(b) of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA) establishes a permanent policy for, and resolves any potential ambiguity about, payment by Medicare for administration of Part D-covered vaccines, beginning with 2008. The payment policy for services furnished by physicians and other practitioners was implemented in a previous Change Request (CR 5459), and CR 5486 implements the payment policy for the administration of Part D-covered vaccines furnished by Medicare-enrolled pharmacies.

Specifically, effective January 1, 2008, the administration of a Part D-covered vaccine is included in the definition of “covered Part D drug” under the Part D statute. Until this effective date, Section 202(a) of TRHCA provides for a transition policy (**in effect for 2007 only**) which permits payment under Medicare Part B for administration of a Part D-covered vaccine. For this 2007 transition period, payment will be made under Part B for the administration of a covered Part D vaccine “as if it were the administration of a vaccine described in section 1861(s)(10)(B) [hepatitis B vaccine.]”

Since payment for administration of a hepatitis B vaccine requires the application of Part B coinsurance and deductible, and involves other statutory requirements such as assignment; these requirements also apply (during 2007) to a payment for the administration of a Part D-covered vaccine. Moreover, payment under Part B for administration of a Part D-covered vaccine is available only if 1) On the date of service, the pharmacy is enrolled as such with the National Supplier Clearinghouse; and 2) The Medicare beneficiary, to whom the Part D-covered vaccine is furnished, is enrolled in a Part D Prescription Drug Plan.

Here are some details that you should know:

1. **Neither this CR nor CR 5459 addresses payment for a Part D-covered vaccine itself. Payment for Part D-covered vaccines is made solely by participating Part D Prescription Drug Plans.**
2. You should use G code (G0377: *Administration of vaccine for Part D drug*) for the administration of Part D-covered vaccines in 2007. The Part B allowed charge for this code (effective for 2007) is \$19.33. Thus, the Medicare payment would be 80% of that amount or \$15.46, assuming the beneficiary's Part B deductible is met. The beneficiary would pay \$3.87 as a coinsurance payment, plus any Part B deductible payment that may be due.
3. Claims must be submitted in the 837 or the CMS 1500 paper form, billed with Indicator 05 –Pharmacy, and indicating the Place of Service (POS) as either home or pharmacy.
4. The Administration of Part D vaccine claims is subject to mandatory assignment. Your DMERC/DME MACs will therefore ensure that you accept

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assignment for claims associated with the administration of a Part D vaccine; and if you should submit a claim for G0377 as unassigned, will process that claim as though it were assigned. Further, since beneficiaries can not submit assigned claims, beneficiary-submitted claims for the administration under the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 legislation can not be paid.

5. You must retain in your records the physician orders/prescription of record for claims associated with the administration a Part D vaccine.
6. DMERCs/DME MACs will return/reject claims for the administration of a Part D vaccine with dates of service after December 31, 2007, and they will use existing Medicare Summary Notice and remittance advice messages for claims associated with the administration of a vaccine.
7. Note that the implementation date for this change is January 29, 2007 in Medicare systems. Thus, your DMERC or DME MAC may not actually process any 2007 claims for payment until that date.

Additional Information

CR5486 is the official instruction issued to your DMERC/DME MAC and you can find CR 5486 at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1146CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your DMERC/DME 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.

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