

MLN Matters Number: MM6153 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6153

Related CR Release Date: October 31, 2008

Effective Date: September 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1623CP

Implementation Date: No later than December 1, 2008

## Influenza Vaccine and the Pneumococcal Vaccine Payment Allowances Based on 95 Percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP)

**Note:** This article was revised to add a reference to MLN Matters® article MM7128, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7128.pdf>, for information on influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine payment edits that are being added to existing CWF edits to prevent payment duplication for claims processed beginning July 5, 2011. All other information is the same.

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6153 which provides the updated payment allowances, effective as of September 1, 2008, for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP).

### Background

The payment allowances for influenza vaccines are updated on an annual basis effective September 1 of each year. The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are updated on a quarterly basis. Change Request (CR) 6153 provides the payment allowances for the following influenza virus vaccines: Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, and 90660 as well as the pneumococcal vaccines (CPT codes 90732 and 90669) when payment is based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP).

#### Disclaimer

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Effective September 1, 2008, these Medicare Part B payment allowances for influenza vaccines are as follows:

CPT Code	Allowance
90655	\$16.879
90656	\$18.198
90657	\$6.609
90658	\$13.218

CPT 90660 (FluMist, a nasal influenza vaccine) may be covered if the local Medicare claims processing contractor determines its use is medically reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary. When payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP, the Medicare Part B payment allowance for CPT 90660 is \$22.316 (effective September 1, 2008).

The Medicare Part B payment allowance for the pneumococcal vaccine CPT code 90732 is \$32.703, and for CPT code 90669 is \$78.803. These payment allowances were published as a part of the July 2008 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files, as specified in CR6049. See <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6049.pdf> on the CMS website to view the article related to CR 6049.

The Medicare Part B payment allowance limits for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are 95 percent of the AWP as reflected in the published compendia except where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, rural health clinic, or federally qualified health center, in which cases, payments for the vaccines are based on reasonable cost.

Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply to these vaccines. 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 adjust payment on claims paid incorrectly prior to implementing CR6153. However, they will adjust such claims that you bring to their attention.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR 6153, issued to your carrier, FI, and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at

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<http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1623CP.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/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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