



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. H1N1 influenza vaccine is currently under production and will be available in the Fall of 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/H1N1/index.html> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6608 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6608

Related CR Release Date: October 2, 2009

Effective Date: September 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1824CP

Implementation Date: November 2, 2009

Note: This article was updated on January 3, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. This article was previously revised on March 11, 2011, to add a reference to MLN Matters® article MM7128, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/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.

Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2009-2010 Season

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or 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) 6608 in order to update payment allowances, effective September 1, 2009, for influenza vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP).

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Background

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 (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), 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.

Key Points of CR 6608

The payment allowances for influenza vaccines are updated on an annual basis effective September 1 of each year. CR 6608 provides the payment allowances for the following influenza virus vaccines: Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, and 90660 when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP.

Note: For information about billing the H1N1 influenza vaccine, please see the MLN Matters® article at <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM6617.pdf> on the CMS website.

Effective September 1, 2009, these Medicare Part B payment allowances for influenza vaccines are as follows:

CPT Code	Allowance
90655	\$15.447
90656	\$12.541
90657	\$5.684
90658	\$11.368

CPT 90660 (FluMist, a nasal influenza vaccine) may be covered if the local Medicare 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, 2009).

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These payment allowances were published as a part of the July 2009 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files, as specified in CR6471. See <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM6471.pdf> on the CMS website to view the article related to CR 6471.

Be aware that Medicare contractors will not search their files to adjust payment on claims paid incorrectly prior to implementing CR6608. However, they will adjust such claims that you bring to their attention.

Additional Information

You can find the official instruction, CR 6608, issued to your Medicare Carrier, FI or A/B MAC by visiting <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1824CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare 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.

CMS would like providers to be aware that educational products are available through the MLN Catalogue free of charge. The MLN Catalogue is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf> on the CMS website. The specific products that may be of interest to providers who use the information in MM6608 are as follows:

1. **The Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information Chart: Medicare Part B Immunization Billing** (Influenza, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B) is available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf on the CMS website.
2. The **Adult Immunizations** brochure provides a basic overview of Medicare's influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccine benefits and is available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult_Immunization.pdf on the CMS website.

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