

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



News Flash – MLN Matters® Special Edition Article #SE1128 titled “Prohibition on Balance Billing Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs),” reminds affected providers about their responsibilities to QMBs. This article is intended to help providers avoid inappropriately billing QMBs for Medicare cost-sharing, including deductible, coinsurance, and copayments.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7580 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7580

Related CR Release Date: October 28, 2011

Effective Date: May 9, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R2337CP

Implementation Date: April 2, 2012

New Influenza Virus Vaccine Code

Note: This MLN Matters® Article was revised on June 4, 2012, to add a reference to M7794 available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7794.pdf> for the latest influenza vaccine coding and payment methodology. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

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

What You Need to Know

Effective May 9, 2011, claims with influenza virus vaccine code 90654 (influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative-free, for intradermal use, for adults ages 18 – 64) will be payable by Medicare for claims with dates of service on or after May 9, 2011, if submitted on or after April 2, 2012. HCPCS code 90654 was added to the 2011 HCPCS file effective January 1, 2011. However, 90654 didn't become payable by Medicare until May 9, 2011. Please make sure your billing staff is aware of these changes. Medicare contractors will not adjust claims submitted prior to May 9, unless you bring such claims to their attention.

Disclaimer

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Background

Change Request (CR) 7580 advises that payment for this code to institutional providers is as follows:

- Hospitals (Types of Bill (TOB) 12X and 13X, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) (TOBs 22X and 23X), Home Health Agencies (HHAs) (TOB 34X), hospital-based Renal Dialysis Facilities (RDFs) (TOB 72X) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) (TOB 85X) are paid on reasonable cost;
- Indian Health Service (IHS) hospitals (TOB12X and 13X) and IHS CAHs (TOB 85X) are paid based on the lower of the actual charge or 95% of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP); and
- Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities and independent RDFs (TOB 72X) are paid based on the lower of the actual charge or 95% of the AWP.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR7580, issued to your carrier, RHHI, FI or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2337CP.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, RHHI, 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.

You may want to review SE1136 (www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1136.pdf) for educational products related to the seasonal flu vaccines and vaccine administration to Medicare beneficiaries for the 2011-2012 flu season.

News Flash - Vaccination is the Best Protection Against the Flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu. The risks for complications, hospitalizations, and deaths from the flu are higher among individuals aged 65 years and older. Medicare pays for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, vaccination is particularly important for healthcare workers, who may spread the flu to high-risk patients; don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. *Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get the Flu Vaccination – Not the Flu.* Remember – The flu vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. CMS has posted the 2011-2012 seasonal flu vaccine payment limits at http://www.CMS.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/10_VaccinesPricing.asp. Note that the flu vaccine is NOT a Part D-covered drug. For more information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational provider resources, visit http://www.CMS.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp and <http://www.cms.gov/immunizations>.

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