

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



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MLN Matters® Number: MM9299

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9299

Related CR Release Date: August 28, 2015

Effective Date: August 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3341CP

Implementation Date: No later than November 24, 2015

## Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2015-2016 Season

### Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians and other providers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for influenza vaccines provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

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Change Request (CR) 9299 informs MACs about the payment allowances for seasonal influenza virus vaccines. These payment allowances are updated on an annual basis

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effective August 1st of each year. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware that the payment allowances are being updated.

The pending payment allowances will be updated in the influenza vaccine pricing webpage. Providers may visit the webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html> for the updated prices.

## Background

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This recurring update notification provides the payment allowances for the following seasonal influenza virus vaccines, when payment is based on 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP).

The Medicare Part B payment allowances for the following Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes below apply for the effective dates of August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016:

- CPT 90655 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90656 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90657 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90661 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90685 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90686 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90687 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90688 Payment allowance is pending;
- HCPCS Q2035 Payment allowance is pending;
- HCPCS Q2036 Payment allowance is pending;
- HCPCS Q2037 Payment allowance is pending; and
- HCPCS Q2038 Payment allowance is pending.

Payment for the following CPT/HCPCS codes may be made if your MAC determines their use is reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary, for the effective dates of August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016:

- CPT 90630 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90654 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90662 Payment allowance is pending;
- CPT 90672 Payment allowance is pending; and

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- CPT 90673 Payment allowance is pending.

Payment allowances will be published in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) influenza vaccine pricing webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html> on the CMS website.

HCPCS Q2039 Flu Vaccine Adult - Not Otherwise Classified payment allowance is to be determined by your MAC with effective dates of August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016.

Payment allowances for codes for which products have not yet been approved will be provided when the products have been approved and pricing information becomes available to the CMS.

The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are based on 95 percent of the AWP and are updated on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files.

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). Where the vaccine is furnished in the hospital outpatient department, RHC, or FQHC, payment for the vaccine is based on reasonable cost.

Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply. 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.

Note: MACs will not search their files either to retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims prior to the implementation date of CR9299. However, they will adjust claims that you bring to their attention.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR9299 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3341CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

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