



2017-2018 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals

MLN Matters Number: SE17026

Related Change Request (CR) Number: N/A

Article Release Date: September 21, 2017

Effective Date: N/A

Related CR Transmittal Number: N/A

Implementation Date: N/A

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

All health care professionals who order, refer, or provide flu vaccines and vaccine administration to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need To Know

- Keep this Special Edition MLN Matters® article and refer to it throughout the 2017 - 2018 flu season.
- Take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to encourage your patients to protect themselves from the flu and serious complications by getting a flu shot.
- Continue to provide the flu shot if you have vaccine available, even after the new year.
- Remember to immunize yourself and your staff.

BACKGROUND

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare Part B reimburses health care providers for flu vaccines and their administration. *(Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)*

You can help your Medicare patients reduce their risk for contracting seasonal flu and serious complications by using every office visit as an opportunity to recommend they take advantage of Medicare's coverage of the annual flu shot. As a reminder, please help prevent the spread of flu by immunizing yourself and your staff!

Know What to Do About the Flu!

Payment Rates for 2017-2018

Each year, CMS updates the Medicare Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes and payment rates for personal flu and pneumococcal vaccines. Payment allowance limits for such vaccines are 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP), except where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). In these cases, the 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.

The following Medicare Part B payment allowances for HCPCS and CPT codes apply:

Codes, Payment Allowances, and Effective Dates for the 2017-18 Flu Season

CPT or HCPCS Code	Payment Allowance	Effective Date
CPT 90630	\$20.343	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90653	\$50.217	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90654	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90655	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90656	\$19.247	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90657	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90661	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90662	\$49.025	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90672	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90673	\$40.613	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90674	\$24.047	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90682	\$46.313	8/1/2017-7/31/2018 (New code)
CPT 90685	\$21.198	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90686	\$19.032	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90687	\$9.403	8/1/2017-7/31/2018

CPT or HCPCS Code	Payment Allowance	Effective Date
CPT 90688	\$17.835	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
CPT 90756*	\$22.793	1/1/2018-7/31/2018
HCPCS Q2039**	** See Note below **	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
HCPCS Q2035	\$17.685	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
HCPCS Q2036	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
HCPCS Q2037	\$17.685	8/1/2017-7/31/2018
HCPCS Q2038	Pending	8/1/2017-7/31/2018

*Until CPT code 90756 is implemented on 1/1/2018, Q2039 will be used for products described by the following language: influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (ccIV4), derived from cell cultures, subunit, antibiotic free, 0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use. The payment allowance for these products, effective for dates of service from 8/1/2017 to 12/31/2017, is \$22.793.

Providers and MACs will use HCPCS Q2039 for dates of service from 8/1/2017-12/31/2017. **HCPCS Q2039 Flu Vaccine Adult – Not Otherwise Classified. The payment allowance will be determined by the local claims processing contractor with effective dates of 8/1/2017-7/31/2018.

Providers are encouraged to review MLN Matters Article [MM10224](#) for more information on 2017-2018 Influenza Vaccines pricing.

Also, updates to payment limits and effective dates, when necessary, will be posted at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

Educational Products for Health Care Professionals

The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) has developed a variety of educational resources to help you understand Medicare guidelines for seasonal flu vaccines and their administration.

1. MLN Influenza Related Products for Health Care Professionals

- Medicare Part B Immunization Billing chart - http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf
- Preventive Services chart - <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/medicare-preventive-services/MPS-QuickReferenceChart-1.html>
- MLN Preventive Services Educational Products webpage - <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/ProviderResources.html>

2. Other CMS Resources

- Immunizations webpage - <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html>
- Prevention General Information - <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/index.html>
- CMS Frequently Asked Questions - <http://questions.cms.gov/faq.php>
- Medicare Benefit Policy Manual - Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2 – Immunizations <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c15.pdf>
- Medicare Claims Processing Manual – Chapter 18, Preventive and Screening Services <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c18.pdf>

3. Other Resources

The following non-CMS resources are just a few of the many available in you may find useful information and tools for the 2016 – 2017 flu season:

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices - <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>
- Other sites with helpful information include:
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>
- Flu.gov - <http://www.flu.gov>
- Food and Drug Administration - <http://www.fda.gov>
- Immunization Action Coalition - <http://www.immunize.org>
- Indian Health Services - <http://www.ihs.gov>
- National Alliance for Hispanic Health - <http://www.hispanichealth.org>
- National Foundation For Infectious Diseases - <http://www.nfid.org/influenza>

- National Library of Medicine and NIH Medline Plus - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/immunization.html>
- National Vaccine Program - <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo>
- Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion - <http://healthfinder.gov/FindServices/Organizations/Organization/HR2013/office-of-disease-prevention-and-health-promotion-us-department-of-health-and-human-services>
- World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int/en>

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
September 21, 2017	Initial article released.

Disclaimer: This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only Copyright 2016 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.