



2018-2019 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals

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PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

All health care professionals who order, refer, or provide flu vaccines and vaccine administration to Medicare beneficiaries and submit bills for these services to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs).

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Special Edition (SE) MLN Matters article SE18015 provides information about influenza (flu) resources for health care professionals and providers relevant to the 2018-2019 flu season. Health care professionals should:

- Keep this article and refer to it throughout the 2018-2019 flu season.
- Take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to encourage 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 the flu by immunizing yourself and your staff!

Know What to Do About the Flu!

Payment Rates for 2018-2019

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 table contains the applicable Medicare Part B payment allowances for HCPCS and CPT codes:

Code	Labeler Name	Drug Name	Payment Allowance	Effective Date
90653	Seqirus Inc	Fluad (2018/2019)	\$54.673	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90656	Seqirus Inc	Afluria (2018/2019)	\$19.773	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90662	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone High-Dose (2018/2019)	\$53.373	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90674	Seqirus Inc	Flucelvax Quadrivalent (2018/2019)	\$24.047	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90682	Sanofi Pasteur	Flublok Quadrivalent (2018/2019)	\$53.373	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90685	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone Quadrivalent Pediatric (2018/2019)	\$21.813	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90686	Seqirus Inc, GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi Pasteur	Afluria Quadrivalent (2018/2019), Fluarix Quadrivalent (2018/2019), Flulaval Quadrivalent (2018/2019), Fluzone Quadrivalent (2018/2019) [Preservative Free]	\$19.032	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019

Code	Labeler Name	Drug Name	Payment Allowance	Effective Date
90687	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone Quadrivalent Pediatric (2018/2019)	\$9.403	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90688	Seqirus Inc, GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi Pasteur	Afluria Quadrivalent (2018/2019), Flulaval Quadrivalent (2018/2019), Fluzone Quadrivalent (2018/2019)	\$17.835	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
90756	Seqirus Inc	Flucelvax Quadrivalent (2018/2019)	\$22.793	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019
Q2035	Seqirus Inc	Afluria (2018/2019)	\$18.236	08/01/2018 – 07/31/2019

Payment allowance information is still pending as of the date of this article for other CPT and HCPCS codes. Once payment allowances are available, CMS will post them at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>.

For 2018/2019, there is a new CPT code (90689), for which the applicable Dates of Service (DOS) are January 1, 2019, through July 31, 2019. The payment rate for 90689 is pending. The new influenza virus vaccine code 90689 is not retroactive to August 1, 2018. No claims will be accepted for influenza virus vaccine code 90689 for DOS between August 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. If MACs receive claims with code 90689 for DOS between August 1, 2018, and December 31, 2018, MACs will follow their normal course of action for codes billed prior to their effective date.

Providers are encouraged to review MM10871 (“Quarterly Influenza Virus Vaccine Code Update – January 2019”) for more information about 90689, available at <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM10871.pdf>. Background on influenza vaccine payment allowances is in MM10914, available at <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM10914.pdf>.

Note: MACs will reprocess any previously processed and paid claims for the current flu season that were paid using influenza vaccine payment allowances other than the allowed published in the influenza vaccine pricing website for the 2018/2019 season that began on August 1, 2018. This reprocessing should occur by November 1, 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

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: Seasonal Influenza Virus, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B educational tool - http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/gr_immun_bill.pdf
- Medicare Preventive Services educational tool - <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/medicare-preventive-services/MPS-QuickReferenceChart-1.html>
- Mass Immunizers and Roster Billing for Influenza Virus and Pneumococcal Vaccinations booklet - [https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Mass Immunize Roster Bill factsheet ICN907275.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Mass_Immunize_Roster_Bill_factsheet_ICN907275.pdf)

2. Other CMS Resources

- Provider Resources webpage - <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/ProviderResources.html>
- Prevention Services webpage - <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/index.html>
- 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 useful information and tools for the 2018 – 2019 flu season:

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices - <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>
- 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

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September 24, 2018	Initial article released.

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