

Flu Season is Here!

Annual outbreaks of the seasonal flu usually occur from late fall to early spring. Typically, 5 to 20 percent of Americans get the seasonal flu, resulting in approximately 36,000 flu-related deaths.¹

If you have Medicare patients who haven't yet received their flu shot, you can help them reduce their risk of contracting the seasonal flu by recommending an annual seasonal influenza vaccination. Medicare provides coverage of the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration. And don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your staff, your patients, and your family and friends.

Remember - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug.

For information about Medicare's coverage of the seasonal influenza virus vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf on the CMS website. You will find a variety of resources that explain Medicare coverage and claims submission policies related to the seasonal influenza vaccine.

For information on Medicare policies related to H1N1 influenza, please go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1> on the CMS website.

¹ Flu.gov. 2009. *About the Flu* [online]. Washington DC: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009 [cited 30 November 2009]. Available from the World Wide Web: (<http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/about/index.htm>)