

**December 5-11, 2010 is National Influenza Vaccination Week.** This national health observance was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of the flu vaccine after the holiday season and into January and beyond. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) needs your help to ensure that people with Medicare get their flu vaccine. National Influenza Vaccination Week presents an excellent opportunity for you to place greater emphasis on flu prevention.

This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu. During NIVW CDC has designated the following special days:

- Monday, December 6 is “Family Vaccination Day”
- Tuesday, December 7 is “Chronic Conditions Day”
- Wednesday, December 8 is “Employee Health Day”
- Thursday, December 9 is “Older Adults Vaccination Day”
- Friday, December 10 is “Young Adults Vaccination Day”

Please use these designated days to encourage family members, seniors and your staff to get their seasonal flu vaccine. Remember, Medicare pays for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for all beneficiaries with no co-pay or deductible. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. **Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu.** For more information about NIVW, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/>.

For information about Medicare’s coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit the following CMS websites [http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu\\_Products.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf) and <http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations>.