

**Flu season is here!** Every year in the United States, on average, about 36,000 people die from influenza and its complications<sup>1</sup>. You can help your Medicare patients overcome these odds through patient education. Please talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting an annual seasonal flu shot--and don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends.

Remember – Seasonal influenza vaccine and 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](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.

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<sup>1</sup> The American Lung Association. 2009. *Understanding Influenza* [online]. New York, NY: The American Lung Association, 2009 [cited 3 November 2009]. Available from the World Wide Web: (<http://www.lungusa.org/lung-disease/influenza/understanding-influenza.html>)