

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 2253	Date: July 8, 2011
	Change Request 7453

SUBJECT: Influenza Virus Vaccine

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The instructions in this transmittal are revising the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) current language regarding the timing of seasonal influenza vaccine administration to better conform to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 8, 2011

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: August 8, 2011

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
R	18/10/10.1.2 Influenza Virus Vaccine

III. FUNDING:

For Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs) and/or Carriers:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their operating budgets.

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the contracting officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the contracting officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Business Requirements

Manual Instruction

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

Attachment - Business Requirements

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SUBJECT: Influenza Virus Vaccine

Effective Date: August 8, 2011

Implementation Date: August 8, 2011

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: The instructions in this transmittal are revising the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) current language regarding the timing of seasonal influenza vaccine administration to better conform to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza. Recent CDC recommendations state that vaccination efforts should begin as soon as the seasonal influenza vaccine is available and continue through the influenza season (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5908a1.htm?s_cid=rr5908a1_w). CMS also recognizes that the beginning and duration of influenza season cannot be precisely determined. Consistent with previous instructions, CMS’ policy continues to recognize that typically one seasonal influenza vaccination is allowable per influenza season and it is not anticipated that significant changes to contractors’ procedures will be required to comply with these instructions.

B. Policy: Effective for services furnished on or after May 1, 1993, the influenza virus vaccine and its administration are covered when furnished in compliance with any applicable State law. Typically, this vaccine is administered once a flu season. Medicare Part B provides 100% coverage for the influenza vaccine and its administration as a preventive service. The Part B deductible and coinsurance do not apply for the influenza vaccine and its administration.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility (place an “X” in each applicable column)									
		A / B M A C	D M M A C	F I I E R	C A R I E R	R H H I S S	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
		F	M	V	C	I	M	V	C	W	
7453-04.1	Contractors shall note the instructions included in this transmittal supersede all prior instructions regarding the definition of a “flu season”.	X		X	X	X					

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility (place an "X" in each applicable column)									
		A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I I E R	C A R R I E R	R H I I E R	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
							F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
	None.										

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: For any recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements, use the box below:

Use "Should" to denote a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:
N/A	

Section B: For all other recommendations and supporting information, use this space: N/A

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Bridgetté Davis at (410)786-4573 or Bridgitte.Davis@cms.hhs.gov; Joscelyn Lissone at (410) 786-5116 or Joscelyn.Lissone@cms.hhs.gov; or Edmund Kasaitis (410) 786-0477 or Edmund.Kasaitis@cms.hhs.gov.

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) or Contractor Manager, as applicable.

VI. FUNDING

Section A: No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their operating budgets.

Section B: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), include the following statement:

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the contracting officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the contracting officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

10.1.2 - Influenza Virus Vaccine

(Rev.2253, Issued: 07-08-11, Effective: 08-08-11, Implementation: 08-08-11)

Effective for services furnished on or after May 1, 1993, the influenza virus vaccine and its administration is covered when furnished in compliance with any applicable State law.

Typically, this vaccine is administered once a *flu season*. Medicare does not require for coverage purposes that a doctor of medicine or osteopathy order the vaccine. Therefore, the beneficiary may receive the vaccine upon request without a physician's order and without physician supervision. Since there is no yearly limit, contractors determine whether such services are reasonable and allow payment if appropriate.

See Pub. 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2 for additional coverage requirements for influenza virus vaccine.