

Health Observance Message – National Influenza Vaccination Week

November 27 to December 3 is National Influenza Vaccination Week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has designated the week after Thanksgiving as ***National Influenza Vaccination Week***. This week long event is designed to raise awareness of the importance of continuing influenza (flu) vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. Since flu activity typically does not peak until February or later, November and December still provide good opportunities to get vaccinated. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) invites you to join in this event as an opportunity to ensure that people with Medicare get their flu shot. The flu vaccine is the best way to protect your patients from the flu. Though Medicare provides coverage for the flu vaccine and its administration, there are still many beneficiaries who don't take advantage of this benefit. If you have Medicare patients who have not yet received their flu shot, we ask that you encourage these patients to protect themselves from the risk and severity of the flu virus. – And don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. **Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends.** Get Your Flu Shot. Remember - Influenza vaccination is a covered Part B benefit. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For more information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and educational resources, go to CMS's website:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0667.pdf> .