

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 16, 2009

**TO:** All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Cost Based Contractors, PACE Organizations, and Demonstration Plans

**FROM:** Teresa DeCaro, RN, M.S. /s/  
Acting Director, Medicare Drug and Health Plan Contract Administration Group

**SUBJECT:** Influenza Vaccinations

As influenza season approaches, we remind Medicare Advantage Organizations and other Medicare health plans that they should be prepared to provide vaccinations this year for seasonal influenza. Since influenza vaccinations are covered by Medicare Part B, health plans must provide these benefits to their enrollees. Seasonal influenza vaccination is already in progress, therefore, plans can expect an earlier pattern of claims for the seasonal influenza vaccination and must appropriately reimburse for these.

As required under 42 CFR 422.100(g), influenza vaccines must be available without cost-sharing. In addition, health plans must ensure that enrollees have access to the seasonal influenza vaccination benefit throughout the influenza season. Plans must have a robust strategy for communicating to beneficiaries to tell them where to get the vaccines.

Concerning H1N1, plans can expect to be required to implement a plan that ensures beneficiaries have adequate access to H1N1 vaccinations in accordance with distribution and other H1N1 vaccine policies and protocols that are being formulated. The vaccine is expected to be provided without cost to providers, however, please note that Original Medicare is paying providers for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine(s). Accordingly, plans will also be required to reimburse providers for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine. For more information, please see the article located at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE0920.pdf>

More information on the H1N1 flu and the associated vaccine can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.