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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 15, 2009

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Influenza Vaccinations – Update to September 16, 2009 Memo

As you know, both seasonal flu vaccine and H1N1 flu vaccines are covered by Medicare Part B.

With regard to the usual seasonal vaccine, health plans must continue to ensure that enrollees have access to the seasonal influenza vaccination benefit throughout the influenza season.

There are special access concerns with regard to the H1N1 vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed recommendations for distribution of the vaccine. Please note that beneficiaries must be able to access this vaccine out-of-network when it is available. We understand that many health plans are already in contact with vaccine providers, but we want to emphasize that health plans should be developing relationships with vaccine providers and begin targeting communications to all of their enrollees about where and how to get the H1N1 vaccine.

We also want to remind plans about information previously stated in a September 16, 2009 memo:

- As required under 42 CFR 422.100(g), influenza vaccines must be available without cost-sharing.
- The H1N1 vaccine is being provided without cost to vaccine providers, however, Medicare is paying providers for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine.
- For more information on Medicare coverage of the H1N1 vaccine, please see the article located at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0920.pdf>

Health plans should be monitoring CDC's website <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> for information, including information on vaccine distribution. In addition, a vaccine locator is now on-line at <http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/vaccination/locator.html>.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation as we work together to ensure a smooth process to assure that this benefit is accessible to all plan enrollees.