



News Flash – On June 9, 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted a national provider conference call on the HIPAA Versions 5010 and D.O. You can view the presentation, transcript and listen to the audio-file from that call by accessing http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Versions5010andD0/Downloads/6-9-2009_National_Provider_Call.pdf on the CMS website.

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Medicare Fee-for-Services (MFFS) Billing for the Administration of the Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Vaccine

Note: This article was revised on September 10, 2009. The title of the article was changed and there were references to two MLN Matters® articles (MM6626 and MM6617) added to the Additional Information section. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers administering the H1N1 vaccine to Medicare patients are affected by this article.

Provider Action Needed

This article explains Medicare coverage and reimbursement rules for the H1N1 vaccine. All providers administering this vaccine should review this article and be sure that their billing staffs are aware of this information.

Background

Medicare Part B provides coverage for the seasonal influenza virus vaccine and its administration as part of its preventive immunization services. The Part B deductible and coinsurance do not apply for the seasonal influenza virus vaccine and its administration. Typically, the seasonal influenza vaccine is administered once a year in the fall or winter. Additional influenza vaccines (i.e., the number of

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doses of a vaccine and/or the type of influenza vaccine) are covered by Medicare when deemed to be a medical necessity. The Influenza A (H1N1) virus has been identified as an additional type of influenza. The H1N1 virus vaccine will be provided to Medicare Part B beneficiaries as an additional preventive immunization service. Medicare will pay for the **administration** of the H1N1 vaccine.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has created two new HCPCS codes for H1N1, effective for dates of service on and after September 1, 2009:

- G9141—Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family)
- G9142---Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration

Payment for G9141 (Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration, will be paid at the same rate established for G0008 (Administration of influenza virus vaccine). H1N1 administration claims will be processed using the diagnosis V04.81 (influenza), and, depending on the provider type, using revenue code 771. The same billing rules apply to the H1N1 virus vaccine as the seasonal influenza virus vaccine with one exception. Since the H1N1 vaccine will be made available **at no cost to providers**, Medicare will not pay providers for the vaccine. Providers do not need to place the G9142 (H1N1 vaccine code) on the claim. However, if the G9142 appears on the claim, only the claim line will be denied.

Payment will not be made to providers for office visits when the only purpose of the visit is to administer either the seasonal and/or the H1N1 vaccine(s).

Providers who normally participate in the Medicare Part B program as mass immunizer roster billers and mass immunizer centralized billers may submit H1N1 administration claims using the roster billing format. The same information must be captured for the H1N1 roster claims as it is for the seasonal influenza roster claims. The roster must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- Provider name and number;
- Date of service;
- Control number for Medicare contractor;
- Patient's health insurance claim number;
- Patient's name;
- Patient's address;
- Date of birth;
- Patient's sex; and
- Beneficiary's signature or stamped "signature on file".

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For this upcoming flu season, Medicare will reimburse Medicare beneficiaries, up to the fee schedule amount, for the administration of H1N1 influenza vaccine when furnished by a provider not enrolled in Medicare. Beneficiaries must submit a Form CMS-1490S to their local Medicare contractor. Medicare will reimburse beneficiaries for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, but not the H1N1 vaccine itself because the H1N1 vaccine will be furnished at no cost to all providers. Medicare beneficiaries may not be charged any amount for the H1N1 vaccine itself.

Finally, Medicare will pay for seasonal flu vaccinations even if the vaccinations are rendered earlier in the year than normal. We understand that such preparations are critical for the upcoming flu season, especially in planning for the influenza A [H1N1] vaccine.

Though Medicare typically pays for one vaccination per year, if more than one vaccination per year is medically necessary (i.e. the number of doses of a vaccine and/or type of influenza vaccine), then Medicare will pay for those additional vaccinations. Our Medicare claims processing contractors have been notified to expect and prepare for earlier-than-usual seasonal flu claims and there should not be a problem in getting those claims paid. Furthermore, in the event that it is necessary for Medicare beneficiaries to receive both a seasonal flu vaccination and an influenza A [H1N1] vaccination, then Medicare will pay for both. However, as noted earlier, please be advised that if either vaccine is provided free of charge to the health care provider, then Medicare will only pay for the vaccine's administration (not for the vaccine itself).

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, Medicare carrier, or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

You may also want to review the following MLN Matters® articles:

- MM6626 (October 2009 Update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6626.pdf>; and
- MM6617 (October Update to the 2009 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6617.pdf> on the CMS website.

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