



**News Flash** – The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) has released MLN Matters® Article #MM7133 to inform providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will cover counseling services to prevent tobacco use for outpatient and hospitalized beneficiaries. Effective for claims with dates of service on and after August 25, 2010, CMS will cover tobacco cessation counseling for outpatient and hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries 1) who use tobacco, regardless of whether they have signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease; 2) who are competent and alert at the time that counseling is provided; and 3) whose counseling is furnished by a qualified physician or other Medicare-recognized practitioner. This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7133 and is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7133.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7120 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7120

Related CR Release Date: October 22, 2010

Effective Date: September 1, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R2071CP

Implementation Date: November 24, 2010

## Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2010-2011 Season

**Note:** This article was revised on November 26, 2010, to reflect a correction to the payment rate for CPT 90655, as announced in CR 7234, issued on November 19, 2010. The corrected payment rate for 90655, as of September 1, 2010, is \$14.858. All other information is the same.

### Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for influenza vaccines provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Change Request (CR) 7120 in order to update payment allowances, effective September 1, 2010, for influenza vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP). CR 7120 refers only to the seasonal influenza vaccines. According to CR 6617, only the **Level II Healthcare Common Procedure**

#### Disclaimer

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**Coding System code G9142 is used to identify the H1N1 vaccine on Medicare claims.** Therefore, Common Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes 90663, 90664, 90666, 90667, and 90668 will not be recognized on Medicare claims for the H1N1 vaccine.

The Medicare Part B payment allowance limits for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are 95 percent of the AWP as reflected in the published compendia except where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Where the vaccine is furnished in the hospital outpatient department, RHC, or FQHC, payment for the vaccine is based on reasonable cost.

CR 7120 provides the payment allowances for the following seasonal influenza virus vaccines: CPT codes 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, 90660, and 90662 when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP. The payment allowances for influenza vaccines are updated on an annual basis effective September 1 of each year.

The Medicare Part B payment allowance in these situations for:

- CPT 90655 is \$14.858;
- CPT 90656 is \$12.375;
- CPT 90657 is \$6.297; and
- CPT 90658 (for dates of service **September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010**) is \$11.368.

CPT 90660 (FluMist, a nasal influenza vaccine) or CPT 90662 (Fluzone High-Dose) may be covered if your Medicare claims processing contractor determines the use is medically reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary. When payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP, the Medicare Part B payment allowance effective September 1, 2010, for CPT 90660 is \$22.316, and for CPT 90662 is \$29.213.

Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply. All physicians, non-physician practitioners and suppliers who administer the influenza virus vaccination and the pneumococcal vaccination must take assignment on the claim for the vaccine. The current payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines can be found on the quarterly drug pricing files.

## Additional Information

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Note that Medicare contractors will not search their files to adjust claims already processed prior to implementation of CR7120. However they will adjust those claims that you bring to their attention.

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The official instruction, CR 7120 issued to your carrier, FI, or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2071CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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

***News Flash - Vaccination is the Best Protection Against the Flu.*** This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu. The risks for complications, hospitalizations and deaths from the flu are higher among individuals aged 65 years and older. Medicare pays for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, vaccination is particularly important for health care workers, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu. **Remember** – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit <http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations> on the CMS website.

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