



For questions and reimbursement issues, contact Sandie @ 408/998-8850 ext. 3007 or email sandie@sccma.org.

Good to Know:

You need to be very careful when coding your claims with the place of service code. According to the 2009 Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) work plan, one of the items on their radar for review is the coding of place of service codes on Medicare Part B claims for services performed in ambulatory surgical centers (ASC) and hospital outpatient departments. Federal regulations provide for different levels of payments to physicians, depending on where the services are performed. Medicare pays a physician a higher amount when a service is performed in a non-facility setting, such as a physician's office, than it does when the service is performed in a hospital outpatient department or, with certain exceptions, in an ASC.

Review the OIG Work plan in its entirety here:

<http://oig.hhs.gov/>.

Click on Publications.

How to Bill for Administering Swine Flu Shots

According to CMS and MLN Matters Number SE0920, as the H1N1 vaccine will be made available without charge to hospitals, physicians, and other entities that immunize patients, Medicare will not pay for the H1N1 vaccine. However, Medicare will pay for the administration of the vaccine in accordance with existing rules. Because the vaccine itself will not be reimbursed, you need not include it on your claim when billing for the administration. However, if providers elect to do so, the claim will be accepted, but the line item for the vaccine will be denied.

The HCPCS code for administering the swine flu vaccine is **G9141** – *Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family)*. Providers should use the diagnosis V04.81 (influenza). Payment for G9141 will be made at the same payment rate established for G0008 (Administration of influenza virus vaccine) for each administration. The HCPCS code for the H1N1 influenza vaccine is **G9142** – *Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration*. Note: Use the new ICD-9 code 488.1 (*influenza due to identified novel H1N1 influenza virus*) to identify the virus. Medicare will pay for screening tests for swine flu.

Medicare will pay for the seasonal flu vaccinations, even if the vaccinations are rendered earlier in the year than normal, as is being advised.

Note: the H1N1 vaccine is not expected to be available until October 15.

Medicare has instructed contractors 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 patients to receive both a seasonal flu vaccination **and** an H1N1 vaccination, Medicare will pay for both. Keep in mind, as noted earlier, if either vaccine is provided free-of-charge to the provider, then Medicare will only pay for the administration (not for the vaccine itself).

Source : MLN Matters® Number SE0920

HIPAA Fact

Is it a HIPAA violation to use patient sign-in sheets or call out the names of patients in physicians' waiting rooms?

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), covered entities, such as physicians' offices, may use patient sign-in sheets or call out patient names in waiting rooms, so long as the information disclosed is appropriately limited. The HIPAA Privacy Rule explicitly permits the incidental disclosures that may result from this practice, for example, when other patients in a waiting room hear the identity of the person whose name is called, or see other patient names on a sign-in sheet. However, these incidental disclosures are permitted only when the covered entity has implemented reasonable safeguards and the minimum necessary standard, where appropriate. Sign-in sheets may not display a patient's Social Security or phone number, for example, or requests for a description of the problem that brought the patient into the office or any medical information not necessary for the purposes of signing in.