



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE December 1, 2010	EFFECTIVE DATE August 6, 2010	NUMBER 99-10-16
SUBJECT Medical Assistance Program Coverage of the 2010-2011 Influenza Vaccines		BY  Izanne Leonard-Haak, Acting Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform Medical Assistance (MA) providers of:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommendations on the use of the influenza vaccine for the prevention and control of influenza;
- The billing instructions for the 2010-2011 influenza vaccines that are provided to MA recipients under 19 years of age when the provider has not received their vaccines through the Department of Health’s (DOH) Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program; and
- The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes to be used when billing the MA Program for the administration of the 2010-2011 influenza vaccines.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, outpatient hospitals and independent medical surgical clinics enrolled in the MA Program who administer vaccines to MA recipients in the MA Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system (including ACCESS Plus) and MA Managed Care delivery system. Providers rendering services to MA recipients under the MA Managed Care delivery system should address any coding or rate-related questions to the appropriate managed care organization (MCO).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In the United States, annual epidemics of influenza occur typically during the late fall through early spring. Influenza viruses can cause disease among persons in any age group, but rates of infection are highest among children. During these annual epidemics, rates of serious illness and death are highest among persons 65 years of age and older,

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children under 2 years of age, and persons of any age who have medical conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza.

On August 6, 2010, the CDC's ACIP issued recommendations in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), "*Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010*", MMWR Volume 59, No. RR-08, for the use of the influenza vaccine for the prevention and control of influenza. The MMWR is available online at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5908a1.htm?s_cid=rr5908a1_e.

Primary recommendations of the ACIP for the 2010-2011 influenza season include:

- Routine vaccination for all persons \geq 6 months of age. This represents an expansion of the previous recommendations for annual vaccination of all adults 19 through 49 years of age and is supported by evidence that annual influenza vaccination is a safe and effective preventive health action with potential benefit in all age groups.
- All children 6 months through 8 years of age who receive a seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time should be given two doses.
- Children who received only one dose of a seasonal influenza vaccine in the first influenza season should receive two doses, rather than one, in the following season.
- Children 6 months through 8 years of age who did not receive at least one dose of an influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine should receive two doses, regardless of previous influenza vaccination history.
- Children 6 months through 8 years of age for whom the previous 2009-2010 seasonal or influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine history cannot be determined should receive two doses of the 2010 - 2011 seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Minimum interval between dose one and dose two is four weeks.

Influenza vaccines licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and approved for use during the 2010-2011 influenza season include Afluria®, Agriflu®, Fluarix®, FluLaval®, FluMist®, Fluvirin® and Fluzone®. These vaccines provide protection against influenza A (H1N1) virus and two other influenza viruses, influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B.

Vaccines for Children Program

The DOH's VFC Program has advised the MA Program of a delay in the delivery of seasonal influenza vaccines to some providers. Distribution of the influenza vaccines began mid-September and is expected to be completed by the end of December 2010.

The Department of Public Welfare (Department) and the MA MCOs will continue to pay for the seasonal influenza vaccine for children under 19 years of age, even though the vaccines can be ordered through the VFC Program. Providers should not bill the MA Program for the influenza vaccine once they receive the vaccine from the VFC Program.

The DOH has advised the MA Program that providers enrolled in the VFC Program may borrow from their private stock to provide an influenza vaccine to a MA recipient. Once the VFC supply is received, the provider would replace the vaccine they used from their private stock with the vaccine they received from VFC. Guidelines for vaccine borrowing are provided in the VFC Provider Handbook provided by the DOH's VFC Program and can be found at: www.health.state.pa.us/vfchandbook. Providers who choose to borrow from their private stock may not bill the MA Program for the influenza vaccine as they will replenish their stock when they receive their VFC supply.

The Department encourages all providers who administer vaccines to children to enroll in the VFC Program. Providers who wish to enroll may do so by calling the DOH VFC Program office at 1-888-646-6964.

PROCEDURE:

MA providers may bill the Department for the administration of influenza vaccines, consistent with the indicated use of the vaccine as approved by the FDA and the current ACIP recommendations, using the following procedure codes:

CPT Code	Description	MA Fee
90655	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, for children 6-35 months of age, for intramuscular use	\$10.00
90656	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, for use in individuals 3 years of age and above, for intramuscular use	\$10.00
90657	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, for children 6-35 months of age, for intramuscular use	\$10.00
90658	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, for use in individuals 3 years of age and above, for intramuscular use	\$10.00
90660	Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use	\$10.00

The MA fee for the administration of each of the vaccines is \$10.00 per administration. Providers participating in an MA MCO network must abide by payment arrangements as stated in their individual MCO contract.

Providers may also bill the Department for seasonal influenza vaccines by indicating, on the claim submission, the appropriate National Drug Code (NDC) that corresponds to the influenza virus vaccine that is dispensed. Providers may bill the Department for the influenza vaccine for children under 19 years of age until they receive their VFC Program supply of the influenza vaccine, unless they have borrowed from their private stock and will replenish the vaccine when they receive their VFC Program supply.

Providers participating in an MA MCO network may also bill their respective MA MCO for seasonal influenza vaccines in accordance with the payment arrangements as stated in their individual MCO contract. Additionally, providers may bill the MA MCO for the influenza vaccine for children under 19 years of age until they receive their VFC Program supply of the influenza vaccine. Providers participating in an MA MCO network should address any coding or rate related questions to their appropriate MCO.