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Seasonal Flu Administration Reimbursement Rate Increases in 2009

HEALTHCARE WORKERS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN STOPPING INFLUENZA'S SPREAD

Reimbursement increases from Medicare for 2009 seasonal flu vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine administration now make it easier for healthcare providers in many states to immunize a growing population that is recommended to receive vaccine.

WHAT

Each year 36,000 people die and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized with seasonal influenza, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Flu vaccination can prevent or mitigate the illness in the majority of healthy people. An increase in flu vaccination reimbursement rates from Jan. 1, 2009–Dec. 31, 2009 can help healthcare providers in their vaccination efforts.

IMPACT

The annual economic burden of seasonal influenza in the United States (using 2003 population and dollars) is estimated to be \$87.1 billion, including \$10.4 billion in direct medical costs¹, reports the CDC. Approximately 85% of Americans are recommended to receive seasonal flu vaccine.¹

NEW GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Officials with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Joint Commission are increasingly encouraging healthcare workers as well as household contacts and caregivers of the young, elderly, and other high-risk populations to receive a seasonal flu vaccination.

“Decreasing transmission of influenza from caregivers and household contacts to persons at high risk might reduce influenza-like-illness

(ILI) and complications among persons at high risk. Influenza virus infection and ILI are common among healthcare providers (HCPs). Influenza outbreaks have been attributed to low vaccination rates among HCP in hospitals and long-term-care facilities.”¹

TARGET GROUPS FOR SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION

While everyone who wishes to receive a flu vaccination should be immunized, the CDC recommends a large percentage of the population (85%)¹ be targeted for seasonal flu vaccination to help stop the spread of the disease.

Target Groups for Flu Vaccination (2009-2010)

- All children aged 6 months-18 years
- All persons aged ≥50 years
- Adults at risk for medical complications from influenza
- All persons who live with/care for persons at high risk for flu-related complications (including contacts of children aged <6 months)

Source: CDC

DIAGNOSING THE FLU

Certain tests can determine the presence of influenza if given within the first two to three days of illness, according to the CDC. Among these assays are rapid diagnostic tests that screen for infection. To date, the fastest tests on the market can be run in about 10 minutes. More than 10 rapid tests are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Annual vaccination can prevent or mitigate seasonal influenza in a majority of the population. Healthcare providers in particular are advised to both administer and receive a seasonal flu vaccination.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AdultImmunizations/>

- The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases <http://www.nfid.org/influenza/>
- For more information visit www.FluSupplyNews.com

1. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MMWR – Early Release- July 24, 2009 / 58 (Early Release); 1-52. Anthony E. Fiore, et al. [Http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r58e0724a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r58e0724a1.htm).

Locality	2009 Fee Schedule	2008 Fee Schedule	Increase	Locality	2009 Fee Schedule	2008 Fee Schedule	Increase
Alabama	\$18.62	\$18.25	\$0.37	Missouri – Rest of Missouri	\$18.34	\$17.82	\$0.52
Alaska	\$25.16	\$22.02	\$3.14	Montana	\$18.59	\$18.25	\$0.34
Arizona	\$20.23	\$20.18	\$0.05	Nebraska	\$19.06	\$18.61	\$0.45
Arkansas	\$18.50	\$18.02	\$0.48	Nevada	\$21.34	\$21.12	\$0.22
California – Anaheim/Santa Anna	\$24.94	\$24.39	\$0.55	New Hampshire	\$21.29	\$20.94	\$0.35
California – Los Angeles	\$24.35	\$23.53	\$0.82	New Jersey – Northern NJ	\$24.60	\$24.16	\$0.44
California – Marin/Napa/Solano	\$24.75	\$24.98	(-\$0.23)	New Jersey – Rest of NJ	\$23.04	\$22.62	\$0.42
California – Oakland/Berkeley	\$25.16	\$25.47	(-\$0.31)	New Mexico	\$19.37	\$18.94	\$0.43
California – San Francisco	\$27.43	\$27.87	(-\$0.44)	New York – Manhattan	\$25.61	\$25.35	\$0.26
California – San Mateo	\$27.39	\$27.83	(-\$0.44)	New York – NYC Suburbs/Long Island	\$25.49	\$25.19	\$0.30
California – Santa Clara	\$25.44	\$26.91	(-\$1.47)	New York – Poughkpsie/MYC	\$22.05	\$21.75	\$0.30
California – Ventura	\$24.82	\$23.85	\$0.97	New York – Queens	\$24.64	\$24.32	\$0.32
California – Rest of California	\$21.64	\$21.28	\$0.36	New York – Rest of New York	\$19.57	\$19.22	\$0.35
Colorado	\$20.67	\$20.52	\$0.15	North Carolina	\$19.70	\$19.31	\$0.39
Connecticut	\$23.81	\$23.35	\$0.46	North Dakota	\$18.45	\$18.32	\$0.13
Delaware	\$21.53	\$21.02	\$0.51	Ohio	\$19.95	\$19.59	\$0.36
DC – DC + MD/VA Suburbs	\$24.36	\$24.23	\$0.13	Oklahoma	\$18.62	\$18.25	\$0.37
Florida – Ft. Lauderdale	\$21.63	\$20.99	\$0.64	Oregon – Portland	\$20.96	\$20.91	\$0.05
Florida – Miami	\$22.70	\$22.07	\$0.63	Oregon – Rest of Oregon	\$19.68	\$19.29	\$0.39
Florida – Rest of Florida	\$20.30	\$19.84	\$0.46	Pennsylvania – Metropolitan Philadelphia	\$22.64	\$22.32	\$0.32
Georgia – Atlanta	\$21.12	\$21.34	(-\$0.22)	Pennsylvania – Rest of Pennsylvania	\$19.87	\$19.30	\$0.57
Georgia – Rest of Georgia	\$19.17	\$18.76	\$0.41	Puerto Rico	\$16.23	\$15.88	\$0.35
Hawaii	\$23.12	\$22.45	\$0.67	Rhode Island	\$22.27	\$21.29	\$0.98
Idaho	\$19.07	\$18.58	\$0.49	South Carolina	\$19.36	\$18.88	\$0.48
Illinois – Chicago	\$22.57	\$22.55	\$0.02	South Dakota	\$18.75	\$18.45	\$0.30
Illinois – East St. Louis	\$20.04	\$19.83	\$0.21	Tennessee	\$19.18	\$18.74	\$0.44
Illinois – Suburban Chicago	\$22.23	\$22.25	(-\$0.02)	Texas – Brazoria County	\$19.99	\$19.93	\$0.06
Illinois – Rest of Illinois	\$19.27	\$18.86	\$0.41	Texas – Dallas County	\$21.03	\$21.13	(-\$0.10)
Indiana	\$19.59	\$19.11	\$0.48	Texas – Galveston County	\$20.41	\$20.03	\$0.38
Iowa	\$18.84	\$18.48	\$0.36	Texas – Harris County	\$20.94	\$20.79	\$0.15
Kansas	\$19.06	\$18.70	\$0.36	Texas – Jefferson County	\$19.24	\$18.77	\$0.47
Kentucky	\$18.77	\$18.40	\$0.37	Texas – Tarrant County	\$20.28	\$20.18	\$0.10
Louisiana – New Orleans	\$21.54	\$20.52	\$1.02	Texas – Travis County	\$20.68	\$20.79	(-\$0.11)
Louisiana – Rest of Louisiana	\$19.12	\$18.57	\$0.55	Texas – Rest of Texas	\$19.20	\$18.75	\$0.45
Maine – Southern Maine	\$21.10	\$20.69	\$0.41	Utah	\$19.59	\$19.38	\$0.21
Maine – Rest of Maine	\$19.19	\$18.79	\$0.40	Vermont	\$20.49	\$20.03	\$0.46
Maryland – Baltimore/Surrounding	\$21.85	\$21.64	\$0.21	Virgin Islands	\$20.60	\$20.51	\$0.09
Maryland – Rest of Maryland	\$20.61	\$20.22	\$0.39	Virginia	\$19.96	\$19.57	\$0.39
Massachusetts – Metropolitan Boston	\$25.21	\$25.15	\$0.06	Washington – Seattle County	\$22.12	\$22.13	(-\$0.01)
Massachusetts – Rest of Massachusetts	\$22.41	\$22.06	\$0.35	Washington – Rest of Washington	\$20.43	\$20.12	\$0.31
Michigan – Detroit	\$22.04	\$21.96	\$0.08	West Virginia	\$18.55	\$18.17	\$0.38
Michigan – Rest of Michigan	\$19.84	\$19.55	\$0.29	Wisconsin	\$19.57	\$19.25	\$0.32
Minnesota	\$20.40	\$20.22	\$0.18	Wyoming	\$18.60	\$18.35	\$0.25
Mississippi	\$18.74	\$18.26	\$0.48				
Missouri – Metropolitan Kansas City	\$20.19	\$20.01	\$0.18				
Missouri – Metropolitan St. Louis	\$19.95	\$19.74	\$0.21				

Note: Rates are effective from Jan. 1, 2009-Dec. 31, 2009

Source: CDC

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