



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 03-16-2007

SUBJECT: Reporting of Fourth Quarter, 2006 PN-7, Influenza Vaccination

FROM: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission

The purpose of this Joint Statement is to notify you that CMS and The Joint Commission have made a change in the reporting of fourth quarter, 2006 PN-7, Influenza Vaccination.

While there is no national shortage of influenza vaccine for the 2006-2007 flu season, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission are aware of ongoing problems with the distribution of vaccine. Despite ordering vaccine early in 2006, many hospitals did not receive their supply of influenza vaccine until late in October or into the month of November. Hospitals are currently held responsible for vaccination of pneumonia inpatients who are discharged from the hospital during the months of October through February.

Because of the delays in vaccine distribution this year, we have jointly decided that the performance measure for influenza vaccination will be limited to pneumonia inpatients who are discharged from the hospital during the months of December 2006 through February 2007 for this flu season. Hospital discharges of pneumonia inpatients during the months of October and November 2006 for PN-7 (influenza vaccination) will not be publicly reported on Hospital Compare. For quality improvement purposes, hospital reports available through QNet Exchange will continue to include discharges from October through December 2006.

CMS continues to require that hospitals submit the PN-7 measure for the Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) program to the QIO Clinical Data Warehouse starting with third quarter 2006 discharges. CMS will not publicly report PN-7 measure data submitted to the QIO Clinical Data Warehouse for July through November 2006 discharges, but continues to require hospitals to submit data elements for this measure starting with third quarter 2006 discharges. The Joint Commission intends to report the results of the PN-7 measure for the period of December 2006 through February 2007 on Quality Check.

We are continuing to work with representatives of the National Influenza Summit, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Quality Forum to address ongoing challenges to measuring hospital performance related to screening and administration of influenza vaccine to inpatients and to address possible future changes to the performance measure.