



News Flash - The ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System Fact Sheet, which provides general information about the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-CM/PCS) including benefits of adopting the new coding system, structural differences between ICD-9CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS, and implementation planning recommendations, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ICD-10factsheet2008.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6153 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6153

Related CR Release Date: October 31, 2008

Effective Date: September 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1623CP

Implementation Date: No later than December 1, 2008

Influenza Vaccine and the Pneumococcal Vaccine Payment Allowances Based on 95 Percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP)

Note: This article was revised on November 7, 2008, to reflect the correct payment amount for CPT code 90669. The correct amount is \$78.803. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6153 which provides the updated payment allowances, effective as of September 1, 2008, for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP).

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This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2007 American Medical Association.

Background

The payment allowances for influenza vaccines are updated on an annual basis effective September 1 of each year. The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are updated on a quarterly basis. Change Request (CR) 6153 provides the payment allowances for the following influenza virus vaccines: Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90655, 90656, 90657, 90658, and 90660 as well as the pneumococcal vaccines (CPT codes 90732 and 90669) when payment is based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP).

Effective September 1, 2008, these Medicare Part B payment allowances for influenza vaccines are as follows:

CPT Code	Allowance
90655	\$16.879
90656	\$18.198
90657	\$6.609
90658	\$13.218

CPT 90660 (FluMist, a nasal influenza vaccine) may be covered if the local Medicare claims processing contractor determines its 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 for CPT 90660 is \$22.316 (effective September 1, 2008).

The Medicare Part B payment allowance for the pneumococcal vaccine CPT code 90732 is \$32.703, and for CPT code 90669 is \$78.803. These payment allowances were published as a part of the July 2008 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files, as specified in CR6049. See <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6049.pdf> on the CMS website to view the article related to CR 6049.

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, or federally qualified health center, in which cases, payments for the vaccines are based on reasonable cost.

Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply to these vaccines. 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.

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Medicare Contractors will not search their files to adjust payment on claims paid incorrectly prior to implementing CR6153. However, they will adjust such claims that you bring to their attention.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 6153, issued to your carrier, FI, and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1623CP.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.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

News Flash - "Flu season is here! Medicare patients give many reasons for not getting their annual flu shot, including—"It causes the flu"; "I don't need it"; "It has side effects"; "It's not effective"; "I didn't think about it"; "I don't like needles!" The fact is that every year in the United States, on average, about 36,000 people die from influenza. Greater than 90 percent of these deaths occur in individuals 65 years of age and older. You can help your Medicare patients overcome these odds and their personal barriers through patient education. Talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot-- and don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends. **Get Your Flu Shot – 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 virus vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, see http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf on the CMS website. To download the Medicare Part B Immunization Billing quick reference chart, go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf on the CMS website. A copy of this quick reference chart can be ordered, free of charge, by going to the MLN Products web page and clicking on "MLN Product Ordering Page" in the Related Links Inside CMS section of the web page.

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