

Provider Bulletin
November 13, 2009**Important: Special Billing Procedures for H1N1 Vaccinations**

- **BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid Will Cover Administration Fee**
- **New Codes for H1N1 Vaccine, Administration**

BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid is taking special measures to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to minimize the impact of the H1N1 virus. These measures will streamline H1N1 vaccination reporting throughout the U.S. health care system, and help BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid participants protect themselves and their families.

Effective immediately, we will cover the cost of administering the H1N1 vaccine. To be reimbursed for administration, please see the next section on special billing procedures.

New Billing Codes and Procedures

To facilitate the tracking of H1N1 vaccination services nationwide, the American Medical Association (AMA) has created new billing codes for the H1N1 vaccine itself and for its administration. These codes are now in effect. Please use them as follows:

- **90470** - H1N1 immunization **administration** (intramuscular, intranasal), including counseling when performed
- **90663** - H1N1 Influenza virus **vaccine**, pandemic formulation

Important billing information:

- The federal government is supplying the H1N1 vaccine at no cost to providers. For that reason:
 - Providers will not be paid for the H1N1 vaccine itself, and therefore you do NOT need to bill for the vaccine.
 - However, if you choose to include vaccine code 90663 on the claim, bill at \$0.01 (one cent) for administrative (nonreimbursable) purposes.
 - You should not attempt to collect any payment from plan participants for the vaccine.
- For administration of **both** the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine at the same time, the recommended billing is 90470 for the H1N1 administration. For the seasonal flu vaccine administration, use the appropriate codes 90472 or 90474 based on the individual's age and coding directions.
- If you are administering the H1N1 vaccine for two doses and the vaccine administration occurs on different dates of service, please bill each claim using the guidance noted above.
- Hospital providers should bill for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine using Revenue Code 771 (Vaccine Administration) with code 90470. If you administer the vaccine to patients during a scheduled Outpatient Clinic visit, the administration fee is included in the rate for the visit.

- Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and Federal Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) providers cannot bill a T1015 encounter code when the only service rendered is the H1N1 vaccine. If you bill a medically necessary encounter in addition to the H1N1 vaccine, however, you should append the “TN” modifier to the claim.

Reimbursement for Multiple Flu Doses

The South Carolina Medicaid policy typically allows one flu vaccination per year if medically indicated. The policy is being expanded this year to include the H1N1 vaccine and will include reimbursement for multiple doses.

H1N1 Vaccination Not Counted Toward VAFAC Limit

The H1N1 vaccine is not being provided as a Vaccine Assurance for All Children (VAFAC) covered procedure. Therefore, it will not be counted toward the three-per-day vaccine limit.

Vaccinations and Office Visits

If you administer the vaccine as part of a routine office visit, you can bill for services rendered as well as the administration of the vaccine. If the plan participant’s purpose for the office visit is solely to receive the vaccination, however, you can only bill for the administration of the vaccine.

Getting the H1N1 Vaccine

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will distribute the vaccine to state health departments. In turn, these state organizations will be responsible for directing the flow of vaccine to providers within their states. Providers interested in getting the H1N1 vaccine should register with their local Departments of Health. More information on the vaccine is available on your state’s public health department web site, or on the CDC 2009 H1N1 web site at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination.

Alternative Vaccination Sources

It is expected that the majority of the vaccine will be made available in public health clinics and in other retail distribution channels, such as drug stores and retail pharmacies. If appropriate, we encourage providers to direct their patients to these alternative sources.

Nonparticipating Providers: Billing Procedures

BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid will reimburse nonparticipating providers who administer the H1N1 vaccine to BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid members. Nonparticipating providers should also use the codes and procedures above for billing. The reimbursement amount, however, will be per the published BlueChoice HealthPlan Medicaid fee schedule for vaccination administration. As a reminder, you cannot bill participants for any additional amounts.

Additional H1N1 Resources

- The federal government’s main flu web site is www.flu.gov.
- The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control web site is sdhec.gov/flu.
- Visit www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com. We will post updates on our web site.

If you have questions about billing and claims of the H1N1 vaccine, please contact our Customer Care Center: **1-866-757-8286**.