



Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances – Annual Update for 2020-2021 Season

MLN Matters Number: MM11882

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11882

Related CR Release Date: July 10, 2020

Effective Date: August 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: R10213CP

Implementation Date: August 3, 2020

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for influenza vaccine services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

This article informs you of the availability of payment allowances for the seasonal influenza virus vaccines as updated on an annual basis, effective August 1 of each year. Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

BACKGROUND

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine payment is based on 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP). The Medicare Part B payment allowances apply for the dates indicated as effective dates on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>. Payment allowances for codes for which products have not yet been approved will be provided when the products have been approved and pricing information becomes available to CMS.

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 provided in a hospital outpatient department, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Where the vaccine is provided in these specific settings, payment for the vaccine is based on reasonable cost.

Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply. 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.

The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines, based on 95 percent of the AWP, are updated on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files.

Note: Your MAC will reprocess any previously processed and paid claims for the current flu season that were paid using influenza vaccine payment allowances other than the allowances published on the influenza vaccine pricing website for the 2020/2021 season, which began on August 1, 2020. Effective for dates of service 8/1/2020 - 7/31/2021, unless otherwise specified, your MAC will determine the Medicare Part B payment allowance for HCPCS Q2039.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 11882, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10213cp.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
July 10, 2020	Initial article released.

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