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Recommendations for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination 2010-2011

We are now entering the 2010-2011 influenza season. Influenza vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza and its potentially severe complications. The recommendations below are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

The Alliance covers influenza vaccines; specific information about billing codes and reimbursement rates is included in this letter. The Alliance launches a focused outreach and education campaign each year at this time to inform members about influenza and to encourage them to get vaccinated. Each member receives a copy of our quarterly member newsletter with an updated article on the importance of flu vaccination and other preventive measures. In addition, members receive a postcard reminding them to call their doctor for a flu shot.

Effective August 1, 2010, Alliance members can get a flu shot from any participating Alliance physician per the following billing guidelines.

Effective October 1, 2010, adult members 19 years and older can get a flu shot from most Alliance-contracted pharmacies, as well as from their doctor. Members will need to contact the pharmacy directly to verify that they are offering this service. Members should not go to non-participating pharmacies, as the Alliance is unable to reimburse members who pay for the flu shot on their own.

ACIP Vaccination Recommendations:

- All persons ages 6 months and older should be vaccinated annually.
- Protection of persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routine vaccination of all persons ages 6 months and older.
- Children ages 6 months through 8 years whose vaccination status is unknown or who have never received seasonal influenza vaccine before (or who received seasonal vaccine for the first time in 2009-10 but received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination) as well as children who did not receive at least 1 dose of an influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine regardless of previous influenza vaccine history should receive 2 doses of a 2010-11 seasonal influenza vaccine (minimum interval: 4 weeks) during the 2010-11 season.

For questions about clinical criteria, call Dr. Richard Helmer, Chief Medical Officer, at (831) 430-5558. For other questions or support, call Angel Milhouse, Provider Services Manager, at (831) 430-5531.

The following vaccines will be available for children and adults this season:

Vaccine	Trade Name	Manufacturer	Age Group
TIV	Fluzone	Sanofi Pasteur	≥6 mos
TIV	Fluvirin	Novartis Vaccine	≥4 yrs
TIV	Agriflu	Novartis Vaccine	≥18 yrs
TIV	Fluarix	GlaxoSmithKline	≥3 yrs
TIV	FluLaval	ID Biomedical Corp. of Quebec (a subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline)	≥18 yrs
TIV	Afluria*	CSL Biotherapies	≥9 yrs
TIV High Dose	Fluzone High Dose	Sanofi Pasteur	≥65 yrs
LAIV	FluMist	MedImmune	2–49 yrs

*Afluria should not be used in children aged 6 months through 8 years. Other age-appropriate, licensed seasonal influenza vaccine formulations should be used for prevention of influenza in children aged 6 months through 8 years.

If no other age-appropriate, licensed seasonal influenza vaccine is available for a child aged 5 years through 8 years old who has a medical condition that increases their risk for influenza complications, Afluria may be given, and providers should discuss the benefits and risks of influenza vaccination with the parents or caregivers before administering Afluria.

For more information about Afluria, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/s100806.htm>.

CDC updates its recommendations as the season unfolds, responding to new patterns and information as it becomes available from surveillance data. Updated flu and vaccine information, including which persons should receive vaccinations first if supply is limited, as well as patient information resources, can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>. Current vaccine information sheets (including the 2010-11 VISs in English, Spanish and other languages) can be found at <http://www.immunize.org/vis/>.

References:

Centers for Disease Control Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, August 6, 2010 / Vol. 59 / No. RR-8 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf>.

Centers for Disease Control ACIP Recommendation for Use of CSL Influenza Vaccine <http://cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/s100806.htm>



Alliance Billing for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Medi-Cal

Effective 8/1/10

Children (CHDP)

Children - 6 months through 18 years of age: Use VFC vaccine

For members linked to your practice, another PCP (no Referral needed), or administrative members:

- Flu Shot
 - ✓ Medication Cost for Flu Shot = Covered by VFC program.
 - ✓ Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00. Bill the Alliance on the CHDP PM-160 claim form using injection code “53”
- Preservative Free Flu Shot (6 months through 35 months)
 - ✓ This is covered through the VFC program
 - ✓ Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00. Bill the Alliance on CHDP PM-160 claim form using injection code “80”
- Preservative Free Flu Shot (3 years through 18 years)
 - ✓ This is covered through the VFC program
 - ✓ Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00. Bill the Alliance on CMS 1500 or UB 04 claim form with code 90656 and modifier SL
- Flu Mist
 - ✓ Medication Cost for Flu Mist = Covered by VFC program (2-18 years only).
 - ✓ Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00. Bill the Alliance on the CHDP PM-160 claim form using injection code “71”

(Note: Only children less than age 19 are eligible for the VFC program. If VFC stock is not available for the Flu Shot or Flu Mist please send claims with invoice attached attn: Sharlene Gianopoulos.)

Children - 19 to 20 years of age

For members linked to your practice, another PCP (no Referral needed), or administrative members:

- Flu Shot
 - ✓ Bill the Alliance on CHDP PM-160 claim form using injection code “54”
 - ✓ Reimbursement = \$ 22.76 (includes administration fee)
- Preservative free Flu Shot
 - ✓ Bill the Alliance on CMS 1500 or UB 04 form for preservative free with code 90656
 - ✓ Reimbursement for Medication = \$ 31.46
 - ✓ Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00 (capitated if mbr is linked to your practice).

Adults

Adults 21 and over

For members linked to your practice, another PCP (no Referral needed), or administrative members:

- Bill the Alliance on a CMS 1500 or UB 04 form.
- Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00 (capitated if mbr is linked to your practice).
- Reimbursement for Medication
 - 90656 (Preservative Free Flu Shot) = \$ 31.46
 - 90658 (Flu Shot) = \$ 13.76
 - 90660 (Flu Mist) = \$ 22.27

**Billing questions? Call Sharlene
Gianopoulos at 831-430-5700**



Alliance Billing for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

Non-CHDP Medi-Cal Providers Effective 8/1/09

Codes and Requirements

For members linked to your practice, another PCP (no Referral needed), or administrative members:

- Bill the Alliance on a CMS 1500 or UB 04 form.
- Use code 90655 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free) for 6-35 months
- Use code 90656 (Influenza virus vaccine, preservative free) for 3 years and older.
- Use code 90657 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus) for 6-35 months.
- Use code 90658 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus) for 3 years and older.
- Use code 90660 (Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use) for 2-49 years

Children (VFC Billing)

Children - 6 months through 18 years of age: Use VFC vaccine

- Reimbursement for Medication covered by VFC program.
- Reimbursement for Administration (regardless of linkage):
 - 90655 SL = \$ 9.00
 - 90656 SL = \$ 9.00
 - 90657 SL = \$ 9.00
 - 90658 SL = \$ 9.00
 - 90660 SL = \$ 9.00

Adults and Children over 19

Children - 19 to 20 years of age

- Reimbursement for Administration = \$ 9.00 (capitated if mbr is linked to your practice).
- Reimbursement for Medication:
 - 90656 = \$ 31.46
 - 90658 = \$ 13.76
 - 90660 = \$ 22.27

**Billing questions? Call Sharlene
Gianopoulos at 831-430-5700**



Alliance Billing for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Healthy Families / Healthy Kids / Alliance Care IHSS / Alliance Care AIM Effective 8/1/10

Codes and Requirements

- Use code 90655 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free) for 6-35 months.
- Use code 90656 (Influenza virus vaccine, preservative free) for 3 years and older.
- Use code 90657 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus) for 6-35 months.
- Use code 90658 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus) for 3 years and older.
- Use code 90660 (Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use) for 2-49 years
- Use code G0008 (Administration of influenza virus vaccine). Administration reimbursed separately.

Healthy Families / Healthy Kids

For members linked to your practice, another PCP (no Referral needed), or administrative members:

- Bill on the CMS 1500 or UB 04 form
- Bill the administrative code in addition to the vaccine code. Please note a vaccination-only office visit is included in the administration reimbursement.
- Reimbursement for Medication and Administration (regardless of member linkage):
 - 90655 = \$ 20.08
 - 90656 = \$ 16.30
 - 90657 = \$ 7.39
 - 90658 = \$ 14.77
 - 90660 = \$ 29.01
 - G0008 = \$ 33.07

[Please note rates are based on Medicare 2009 Q3 rates for Contracted Physician providers.](#)

Alliance Care IHSS / Alliance Care AIM

For members linked to your practice, another PCP (no Referral needed), or administrative members:

- Bill on the CMS 1500 or UB 04 form
- Bill the administrative code in addition to the vaccine code. Please note the office visit is included in the administration reimbursement.
- Reimbursement for Medication and Administration (regardless of member linkage):
 - 90656 = \$ 13.80
 - 90658 = \$ 12.50
 - 90660 = \$ 24.55
 - G0008 = \$ 23.80

**Billing questions? Call Sharlene
Gianopoulos at 831-430-5700**

[Please note rates are based on Medicare 2009 Q3 rates for Contracted Physician providers.](#)