



Influenza Vaccine for Medicare-Fee-For-Service Patients

As of June 30, 2014 CMS will no longer be reimbursing the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) for influenza vaccine for Medicare fee-for-service patients.

What is Medicare Fee-for-Service?

- Straight Medicare claims. This policy change does not include Medicare Advantage claims for patients with BCBS, UHC, or Neighborhood (HMO, PPO plans). This change does not apply to Medicaid patients.

Options for influenza vaccine for Medicare-Fee-For-Service (MFFS) patients

- Purchase vaccine for through the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH)
- Purchase vaccine directly from vaccine manufacturers
- Refer MFFS patients to pharmacies for vaccine

*Additional information on ordering influenza vaccine
for MFFS patients through HEALTH:*

Pre-booking

- Healthcare providers who purchase influenza vaccine for MFFS patients through HEALTH would pre-book that vaccine in June.
- If providers overbook influenza vaccine for MFFS patients when pre-booking, they are not financially responsible for the cost of that vaccine. Providers are only responsible for the vaccine that is delivered to them. (Pre-booking vaccine before influenza season and ordering vaccine during influenza season are two separate processes.)

Ordering

- All state-supplied vaccine is ordered through OSMOSSIS, including influenza vaccine for MFFS patients.

Delivery

- Influenza vaccine for MFFS patients purchased through HEALTH will be delivered to providers through McKesson, in the same way that all other vaccine that is ordered through HEALTH is delivered. As with all vaccine, it will be delivered on a weekly

basis. To receive vaccine, providers must order vaccine. Vaccine will not be automatically sent.

Vaccine types and costs

- Influenza vaccine purchased through HEALTH for MFFS patients will be in pre-filled syringes. It will be preservative free and latex free. The types and costs will be:
 - Fluzone (Trivalent) High Dose - \$29.34/dose
 - Flulaval (Quadrivalent) - \$15.45/dose

Separating and storing vaccine

- Influenza vaccine for MFFS patients purchased through HEALTH does not need to be separated from vaccine ordered for other patients.

Reporting

- When providers administer influenza vaccine to MFFS patients, they only need to report to HEALTH (through OSMOSSIS) on vaccine ordered through HEALTH. If providers purchase influenza vaccine privately, they do not need to report on that vaccine through OSMOSSIS.

Billing and payments

- Once vaccine for MFFS patients has been ordered and shipped, invoices for the vaccine will be sent to providers. Payment must be submitted to HEALTH within 90 days of the shipping date, regardless of the date of the vaccine's administration. Practices can submit claims to CMS for reimbursement of vaccine and administration.

Returns

- Influenza vaccine ordered through HEALTH for MFFS patients can be returned through OSMOSSIS due to waste and/or expiration. Refunds are not available for returned vaccines.
- Influenza vaccines ordered outside of HEALTH cannot be returned through OSMOSSIS.

Hospital In-Patients

- It is recommended that hospital administrators use their billing and/or EHR systems to assess how many straight Medicare fee-for-service patients received flu shots at their facilities last year. Hospitals should pre-book approximately this number of doses of influenza vaccine in OSMOSSIS for this population. Hospitals will be financially responsible for the number of doses that are ordered and shipped, not the number of doses pre-booked.