

MEDICARE DRUG & HEALTH PLAN CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION GROUP

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2010

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Cost Based Contractors, PACE Organizations, and Demonstration Plans

FROM: Danielle R. Moon, J.D., M.P.A.
Director

SUBJECT: Influenza Vaccination Reminder

As influenza season approaches, we remind Medicare health plans that they should be prepared to provide vaccinations this year for seasonal influenza. Since influenza vaccinations are covered by Medicare Part B, health plans must provide these benefits to their enrollees. Seasonal influenza vaccination is already in progress; therefore, plans can expect an earlier pattern of claims for the seasonal influenza vaccination and must appropriately reimburse for these vaccines.

As required under 42 CFR 422.100(g), influenza vaccines must be available without cost-sharing. In addition, plans must ensure that enrollees have access to the seasonal influenza vaccination benefit throughout the influenza season. Plans must have a robust strategy for communicating to beneficiaries regarding vaccine access.

A higher dose formulation of an inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine for use in people age 65 years and older is available and payable by Medicare in the 2010-2011 influenza season. For more information, please see the CMS Adult Immunizations page of the CMS website located at: <http://www.cms.gov/adultimmunizations/>. This page includes comprehensive information on coverage of influenza and other adult immunizations; provider resources, such as the 2010-2011 Immunizer's Guide; fact sheets for beneficiaries; and 2010 - 2011 influenza vaccine payment allowance rates.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.