



STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
310 GREAT CIRCLE ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Memo

To: TennCare Providers
From: Bureau of TennCare
Date: October 1, 2009
Re: Important Information on H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

Pharmacist Administration of H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

As you are aware, TennCare's primary strategy for influenza management is prevention through vaccination programs. Vaccines are usually administered by a primary care physician under the recipient's medical benefit. Typically, TennCare does not provide pharmacists an administration fee for vaccines. However, this flu season an exception will be made for the H1N1 influenza vaccine. Because the H1N1 influenza vaccine will be subject to limited distribution by the federal government to select providers registered to administer the vaccine, and pharmacies may be among the approved H1N1 influenza vaccine provider sites, **TennCare will be reimbursing pharmacies a \$10.25 administration fee to give the H1N1 influenza vaccine.**

If your pharmacy is registered as an H1N1 influenza vaccine provider for the 2009 – 2010 flu season, claims for the H1N1 influenza vaccine should be processed through the pharmacy point of sale (POS) system as any other prescription claim. The claim will adjudicate showing a \$0 cost for the drug and a \$10.25 dispensing fee, which represents the administration fee. The process will be the same for either the nasal spray or the injectable H1N1 influenza vaccine. For assistance in submitting H1N1 influenza vaccine claims through the POS system, please contact SXC's Technical Call Center at: 866-434-5520.

Please note: this vaccine administration fee is for the H1N1 influenza vaccine only. It does not apply to other vaccines, including seasonal flu.

Other Reminders Pertaining to H1N1 Influenza Vaccine:

- The nasal spray contains live attenuated virus and is recommended for use only in healthy individuals aged 2 to 49 years. It is not for use in pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals.
- The injection contains inactive virus, and is approved for use in individuals 6 months of age and older, including pregnant women, individuals 50 years of age and older, and those with chronic health conditions.
- A single dose of vaccine will be sufficient for recipients 10 years of age and older. Children under 10 will require two doses of the H1N1 vaccine, administered 21 days apart.
- The first shipment of H1N1 vaccine may begin being distributed as early as October 1, 2009. Most of this first shipment will consist of the nasal spray vaccine. Additional doses of vaccine will be distributed each week throughout the flu season. (Approximately 20 million doses per week are expected to be distributed until the government's goal of 251 million doses is reached.) It is anticipated that injectable vaccine will be widely available within a few weeks after the first vaccine shipments.

Thank you for your valued participation in the TennCare program. Please forward or copy the information in this notice to all providers who may be affected by this requirement.