

2009 H1N1 Vaccine : Financing and Billing

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



General H1N1 Financing Principles

- Vaccine and ancillary supplies are purchased and provided by the federal government, so no charge for these is permitted
 - Not part of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
- Vaccine providers can charge a vaccine administration fee to the patient, or bill their health insurance plan, or other third party payer
- Goal of vaccination financing: to balance reasonable payment to providers with affordable access to individuals

Who Covers H1N1 Vaccination?

- Medicare
- Medicaid/CHIP
 - All eligible children
 - Adults in mandatory settings, including RHCs
- TRICARE & CHAMPVA
- In certain settings: IHS, VA, DoD
- Many private health insurance plans

Under- and Uninsured Patients (1)

- Private sector
 - Providers are encouraged to vaccinate those who cannot pay; if unable, providers should refer these patients to a public health clinic or affiliated public health provider
 - Providers may collect an out-of-pocket charge up to the regional Medicare reimbursement rate for seasonal influenza vaccine administration

Under- and Uninsured Patients (2)

- Public sector
 - Phase 3 Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) funding for CDC grantees, to support implementation of H1N1 vaccination campaigns
 - 50 states, some large cities, U.S. territories
 - PHER grantees and those working on behalf of public health agencies are prohibited from turning away persons due to an inability to pay

Billing for H1N1 Vaccine Administration

- Many public and private health insurance plans are waiving cost-sharing
- New CPT and HCPCS codes specific to H1N1 vaccine and H1N1 vaccine administration
- All providers may bill health insurance plans or other third-party payers
- Public health departments or those vaccinating on behalf of public health may not collect any out-of-pocket charges including co-pays

H1N1 Financing Web Links

- http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/statelocal/vaccine_financing.htm
- http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statelocal/vaccing_billing_qa.htm
- <http://www.flu.gov>
- <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1/>