

***2007 INFLUENZA VACCINE INFORMATION AND FLUMIST
COVERAGE***

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OCTOBER 19, 2007

MS-PROV-2007-001
MSFB-PROV-2007-001

TO: (1) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(2) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
(3) DIRECTOR/MANAGER OF PATIENT ACCOUNTS
(4) BILLING OFFICE STAFF
(5) DIRECTOR OF NURSING

FROM: MSBCBS OFFICE OF PROVIDER CONTRACTING AND
REIMBURSEMENT

SUBJECT: 2007 INFLUENZA VACCINE INFORMATION AND FLUMIST

THIS BULLETIN APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:

Traditional/Indemnity PPO/POS FEP
 WVSBP HHIC FreedomBlue

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide the most current information for the upcoming influenza season.

BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW

FluMist Coverage

FluMist is an intranasal live virus influenza vaccine for healthy children and adolescents, ages 2 years to 17 years, and healthy adults, ages 18 to 49. Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield (MSBCBS) and HHIC will determine coverage for FluMist according to the member's contract. Providers are reminded to check the member's benefits for this service. Providers should use code 90660 when reporting FluMist.

Health Care Workers Should Be Immunized

Immunization of health care workers against influenza is important. Health care professionals with direct patient contact are classified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as a high priority group and should be vaccinated annually.

2007-08 Recommendations of the Advisory Committee On Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended for:

- all persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others
- all children aged 6–59 months (i.e., 6 months–4 years);
- all persons aged 50 years and over;
- children and adolescents (aged 6 months–18 years) receiving long-term aspirin therapy who therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
- women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- adults and children who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- adults and children who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications) or by human immunodeficiency virus;
- adults and children who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration;
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities;
- health-care personnel;
- healthy household contacts (including children) and caregivers of children aged less than five years and adults aged 50 years and over, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of

children less than six months; and

- healthy household contacts (including children) and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza.

BILLING INSTRUCTIONS

Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities

Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities who provide the flu vaccine to inpatients and residents are requested to submit those claims to MSBCBS and HHIC.

FreedomBlue

FreedomBlue members have been encouraged to receive the influenza immunization from their doctors or from mass immunization sites. No copayment applies when FreedomBlue members receive their immunizations from a network-participating provider.

Billing for Flu Shots Provided to FreedomBlue Members Who Are Inpatients

If a hospitalized FreedomBlue patient has not received either the influenza or the pneumonia vaccine, the hospital should offer to provide that immunization if the vaccine is available. Providers should note that separate outpatient claims can be submitted for influenza and pneumonia immunizations. Providers will be reimbursed for flu shots in addition to their normal inpatient reimbursement.

Billing Protocol for Medicare Advantage and Commercial Claims

Providers can bill for the vaccine only, the administration only or both vaccine and administration. If your facility chooses to bill separately for the vaccine and its administration, please bill both of these charges on the same claim. Split billing can cause payment delays. Providers should always verify coverage for commercial products.

Flu shots provided by in-network facilities are to be billed using the following UB billing protocol.

LOCATOR NUMBER	LOCATOR NAME	ENTRY
Locator 04	Type of Bill	131, 141, 221, 231 or 331 for outpatient services
Locator 42	Revenue Code	Revenue code 0636 - vaccine Revenue code 0771 - administration
Locator 44	HCPCS/Rate	90655 - Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, for use in children 6-35 months of age 90656 - Influenza virus vaccine, split

		virus, preservative free, for use in individuals 3 years and above 90657 - flu vaccine, children age 6-35 months 90658 - flu vaccine, 3 years and above 90660 – FluMist ages 2 years to 17 years, and healthy adults, ages 18 to 49 HCPCS G0008 - administration
Locator 67	Principal Diagnosis Code	V0481

Please note that all other standard billing protocols apply.

ASSISTANCE

This Bulletin

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the Office of Provider Relations, at **1-304-424-7795 or 1-800-798-7768**, or your External Provider Relations Representative.

Inquiries About Eligibility, Benefits, Claim Status or Authorizations

For inquiries about eligibility, benefits, claim status or authorizations, MSBCBS encourages providers to use the electronic resources available to them – NaviNet and the applicable HIPAA transactions – prior to placing a telephone call to the Customer Service Center.