

**New York State Department of Health**  
**Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program**  
Local Health Department Contracts 2009-2010  
Questions and Answers - as of October 7, 2009  
(A Partial list Q&As relating to billing and coding)

**2. Can vaccination providers charge or bill for the 2009 HINI vaccine?**

No. 2009 HINI influenza vaccine and ancillary supplies (syringes, needles, sharps containers, and alcohol swabs) have been purchased by the federal government and provided free of charge to all providers participating in this voluntary vaccination effort. Therefore, it will not be permissible to charge for the 2009 HINI vaccine itself.

**3. Can vaccination providers charge or bill for administration of the 2009 HINI vaccine to patients?**

Yes. While every effort is being made to ensure that cost is not a barrier for patient receipt of vaccine, providers may charge or bill for vaccine administration. Policies and procedures guiding this financial transaction are explained below.

**4. What types of providers can administer the 2009 HINI vaccine?**

Any public or private provider who is designated as a 2009 HINI vaccinator by the public health authority in the jurisdiction where they practice can participate in the 2009 HINI vaccination program. In addition to physicians, private providers may include commercial community vaccinators (CCV) such as pharmacies, retail-based clinics, urgent care centers, and medical services firms. Public providers may include state and local health departments and Health Centers (HCs), including any federally qualified health center (FQHC) whether public or private. To become a designated 2009 HINI vaccinator, providers should contact the appropriate person in their state health department for more information (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statecontacts.htm>).

**5. Can federal funds provided to public health departments for 2009 HINI vaccine implementation be used to pay for the administration of vaccines given by commercial community vaccinators?**

Yes. When a contract exists between the commercial community vaccinator (CCV, defined above) and the public health department, the public health department can organize a 2009 HINI vaccination clinic using the contract with a CCV to provide staff or to run the clinic. The public health department may use 2009 HINI vaccine implementation funds provided by the federal government to pay the CCV. Alternatively, the public health department may organize and establish a mass vaccination site and identify a CCV to administer vaccine at that site. In this case, a health department may use federal funds to pay the CCV, or the CCV can bill third party payers, including Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance plans. In no case will commercial community vaccinators

(CCVs, as defined above) be permitted to receive both federal monies provided to public health departments and bill insurance for vaccine administration for the same patient. It is the responsibility of the designated public health authority to oversee this policy. Following the 2009 H1N1 vaccination campaign, HHS will conduct an assessment to determine how this process was followed.

#### *Private Health Insurance*

### **6. Will private health insurance plans reimburse private providers for administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine?**

This is up to each individual health plan, but the general expectation is that plans will reimburse for vaccine administration. According to America's Health Insurance Plans, a national association representing nearly 1,300 companies that provide health insurance to over 200 million Americans, "Every year health plans contribute to the seasonal flu vaccination campaign in several ways:

a) Health plans communicate directly with plan sponsors and members about the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations and encourage immunization; they also provide information on where to get vaccinations, and who to contact with any questions.

b) Just as health plans have provided extensive coverage for the administration of seasonal flu vaccines in the past, public health planners can make the assumption that health plans will provide reimbursement for the administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine to their members by private sector providers in both traditional settings e.g., doctor's office, ambulatory clinics, health care facilities, and in nontraditional settings, where contracts with insurers have been established."

### **7. What Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes are available for submitting a claim for administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine to a private health insurance plan?**

The currently established CPT code for 2009 H1N1 vaccine is s90663 (influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1). This code may be reported in conjunction with the unique CPT code for H1N1 vaccine administration: 190470, H1N1 immunization administration (intramuscular, intranasal), including counseling when performed. Providers should follow instructions provided by the health plans with whom they contract related to billing for 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration. Additional CPT codes for different formulations of 2009 H1N1 vaccine are currently under consideration.

Medicare Fee for Service (FFS)

### **8. Will Medicare FFS pay private providers for administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine?**

Yes, like the seasonal influenza vaccine, the 2009 H1N1 vaccine and its administration are covered under the Part B preventive services benefit for all Medicare beneficiaries with Part B coverage. For details on Medicare coverage and reimbursement for 2009 H1N1 vaccine, see

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN/MattersArticles/downloads/SE0920.pdf>.

**9. Will Medicare FFS pay for multiple administration fees if it is determined that the 2009 H1N1 vaccine requires multiple doses?**

It is expected that persons aged 10 and over only require one dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine. However, multiple administration fees will be covered for Medicare beneficiaries requiring multiple doses of H1N1 vaccine.

**10. What type of cost-sharing for 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration will be imposed on Medicare FFS beneficiaries?**

For Medicare FFS beneficiaries, co-insurance and deductible requirements are not applied to influenza vaccine administration, including 2009 H1N1.

**11. How much will Medicare FFS pay for administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine?**

Medicare FFS will reimburse the administration of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine at the same rate that is paid for administration of seasonal influenza vaccine, for each dose administered.

**12. What codes should be used when submitting a claim for 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration to Medicare FFS?**

CMS has established two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for 2009 H1N1 vaccine and vaccine administration: G9141- Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family), and G9142- Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration.

Providers may elect to submit the HCPCS code for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine along with the vaccine administration code. However, since Medicare FFS will not provide payment for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine itself, only the vaccine administration code is required for payment.

Medicaid

**13: What is Medicaid's role in 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration?**

CMS recently issued guidance to States outlining existing Medicaid and CHIP authorities available to States for the administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine. States should consult the guidance at the following link to address concerns that may arise regarding Medicaid and 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SMDL/SHO/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=99&sortByDID=1&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS1228935&intNumPerPage=1A>

**14. Will the VA cover administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine for Veterans eligible for VA health care benefits?**

Yes, the VA will provide the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. There will be no charge to eligible Veterans for administration of H1N1 vaccine. Veterans seeking the H1N1 vaccine but

currently not enrolled in VA health care can apply for enrollment at their closest VA health care facility, or online at:

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez>

### TRICARE

#### **15. Will TRICARE cover administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine for its beneficiaries?**

Yes, TRICARE will cover the 2009 H1N1 vaccine for TRICARE beneficiaries. This coverage applies to beneficiaries served both in Military Treatment Facilities and in private provider offices that are authorized to treat TRICARE beneficiaries.

#### **16. What type of cost-sharing for 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration will be imposed on TRICARE beneficiaries?**

Cost-sharing for 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration will be similar to cost sharing for other vaccines covered by TRICARE. This cost-sharing may vary depending on what type of TRICARE coverage the beneficiary has. TRICARE beneficiaries should consult their benefits guide for cost-sharing information.

#### **17. What codes should be used when submitting a claim for administration of 2009 H1N1 Vaccination to TRICARE?**

The currently established CPT code for 2009 H1N1 vaccine is 90663 (influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1). This code may be reported in conjunction with the unique CPT code for H1N1 vaccine administration: 90470, H1N1 immunization administration (intramuscular, intranasal), including counseling when performed. Providers should follow instructions provided by the health plans with whom they contract related to billing for 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration. Additional CPT codes for different formulations of 2009 H1N1 vaccine are currently under consideration. CMS has established two new HCPCS codes for 2009 H1N1 vaccine and vaccine administration: G914I- Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family), and G9142- Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration.

### Special populations

#### **18. Will screening of children for VFC eligibility be required prior to administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine?**

No.

#### **19. Will administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine to eligible tribal members be covered by IHS?**

Yes, the IHS will cover administration of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to tribal members who are eligible for HIS health care benefits. There will be no charge to eligible tribal members for administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine.