



Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2018-2019 Season

MLN Matters Number: MM10914

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10914

Related CR Release Date: August 31, 2018

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4124CP

Implementation Date: No later than
October 1, 2018

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians and other providers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for influenza vaccines provided to Medicare Beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Change Request (CR) 10914 informs MACs about payment allowances for influenza virus vaccines, which are updated on August 1 of each year. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will post the payment allowances for influenza vaccines that are approved after the release of CR 10914 at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>. Make sure your billing staffs are aware that the payment allowances are being updated.

BACKGROUND

The Medicare Part B payment allowance limits for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP), as reflected in the published compendia except where the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Where the vaccine is furnished in the hospital outpatient department, RHC, or FQHC, payment for the vaccine is based on reasonable cost.

Annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply. All physicians, non-physician practitioners, and suppliers who administer the influenza virus vaccination and the pneumococcal vaccination must take assignment on the claim for the vaccine.

The Medicare Part B payment allowances for dates of service of August 1, 2018, through July 31, 2019, are still pending as of the date of CR10914 for CPT codes 90630, 90653, 90654, 90655, 90656, 90657, 90661, 90662, 90672, 90673, 90674, 90682, 90685, 90686, 90687,

90688, 90756, and HCPCS codes Q2035, Q2036, Q2037, and Q2038. Once payment allowances are available, they will be posted at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>.

Payment allowances for codes for which products have not yet been approved will be provided when the products have been approved and pricing information becomes available to CMS.

The payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are based on 95 percent of the AWP and are updated on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files.

Note: MACs will reprocess any previously processed and paid claims for the current flu season that were paid using influenza vaccine payment allowances other than the allowances published in the influenza vaccine pricing website for the 2018/2019 season, that began on August 1, 2018. This reprocessing should occur by November 1, 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 10914, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4124CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
September 4, 2018	Initial article released.

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