Network Notification

Date: October 30, 2009            Number: 114
TO: All BMC HealthNet Plan Network Providers
FROM: BMC HealthNet Plan
SUBJECT: H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Vaccine, and Administration
PRODUCT: MassHealth      Commonwealth Care

The information listed below supplements current policies stated in the BMC HealthNet Plan Provider Manual. This information will be incorporated into the online version of the Provider Manual in section 2.15.19 available at www.bmchp.org.

H1N1 vaccine procedure code release
Recently, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released two new procedure codes, and the AMA updated two CPT codes to represent the H1N1 vaccines being dispensed. These four codes are provided below.

New administration codes
- G9141 – Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family)
- 90470—H1N1 immunization administration (intramuscular, intranasal), including counseling when performed

New vaccine material codes
- G9142 – Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration
- 90663—Influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1

To simplify the multiple methods available for billing H1N1 established by different payers within the state, BMC HealthNet Plan will accept both vaccine administration codes and both vaccine material codes listed above. Please note: The Plan will not reimburse for H1N1 vaccine materials as this is being made available free of charge.

Provider applicability
The Plan will allow the following participating provider types to administer seasonal flu and the H1N1 vaccine:
• Acute outpatient hospitals and their associated health centers or school-based health clinics
• Community health centers and associated school-based health clinics (billing for vaccines will be limited to physicians and nurses within these sites, i.e., chiropractors are not eligible to bill for a vaccine if billed from within a community health center)
• Home care agencies
• Independent nurse midwives or nurse practitioners
• Primary or specialty care physicians

The Plan does not require any referral or authorizations for administering the seasonal flu or H1N1 vaccine. The Plan is evaluating whether to include contracted pharmacies as eligible providers for seasonal flu vaccinations. Once this evaluation is completed, a separate notice will be issued.

**Specific billing rules**

• The Plan will not reimburse a home care agency for a nursing visit that was for the sole purpose of administering vaccines. When the seasonal flu or H1N1 vaccine are billed in conjunction with a home care visit, no administration fees will be paid, and only the nursing visit related to a preauthorized medical need will be reimbursed.

• When billing for the H1N1 alone, use one of the H1N1 administrative codes above.

• When billing for seasonal flu and childhood vaccinations at the same time, follow standard billing rules.

• When billing for both the H1N1 and any other vaccine administrations at the same time (seasonal flu or childhood vaccines), use one of the H1N1 administrative codes (90470 or G9141) listed above as the primary administration code and the codes listed below for any subsequent vaccines.
  
  o 90466 - Immunization administration younger than age eight years (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections) when the physician counsels the patient/family; each additional injection (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) per day (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)

  o 90468 - Immunization administration younger than age eight years (includes intranasal or oral routes of administration) when the physician counsels the patient/family; each additional administration (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) per day (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)

  o 90472 - Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)
- 90474 - Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)

**Seasonal flu vaccines**
The Plan will reimburse providers for administering the seasonal flu vaccine given to an eligible Plan member. Reimbursement for seasonal flu vaccine materials is only available if the provider office purchased the flu vaccine materials and provides sufficient documentation in the form of an invoice to substantiate the purchased materials. When billing for seasonal flu and H1N1, CPT 90470 must be the code used for the first vaccination administration code, followed by the appropriate add-on code specified in the above billing requirements.

**Provider reimbursement terms**
Providers with existing reimbursement terms for vaccine administration will be paid based on those terms specified in their Participating Provider Agreement, including reimbursement for H1N1 vaccine administration.

**Home care agency reimbursement**
For dates of service between November 1, 2009 and February 28, 2010, the Plan will allow home health agencies to bill for H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine administrations at the rates specified below. Home care agencies may not bill for these services as a part of home care visits, as this temporary access to vaccine billing is intended to allow home care agencies to bill while performing remote services in the community. Additionally, only purchased seasonal flu vaccine materials may be billed via invoice. If the vaccine materials are supplied free of charge by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the provider should not bill for them.

Vaccine materials for H1N1 are not billable, and if they are billed they will be processed to pay $0.00 since the materials are being provided free through other government funding. Home care providers must follow all rules previously stated within this notification regarding the use of first order/second order coding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90470</td>
<td>H1N1 Vaccine – any route of administration</td>
<td>$13.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90465* &amp; 90471</td>
<td>Seasonal flu vaccine only-intramuscular</td>
<td>$13.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90467* &amp; 90473</td>
<td>Seasonal flu vaccine only-intranasal</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90466* &amp; 90472</td>
<td>Each additional vaccine-intramuscular</td>
<td>$7.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90468* &amp; 90474</td>
<td>Each additional vaccine-intranasal</td>
<td>$6.68</td>
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(*See AMA CPT literature for complete descriptions of these codes and age parameters.)

If you have any questions about the information in this Network Notification, please contact your provider relations representative. All BMC HealthNet Plan Network Notifications are available online at www.bmchp.org.