

{Date}

{PMG Name}
{Contact Name}
{Address}
{City}, {State} {ZIP}

RE: H1N1 Administration Reimbursement for Commercial HMO Medical Groups and IPAs

Dear Participating Medical Group:

To ensure the success of the national H1N1 vaccination immunization campaign, Anthem Blue Cross (Anthem) is working diligently to support the health of our members by implementing guidelines and recommendations set forth by federal and state officials regarding H1N1 immunization. To that end, Anthem is waiving co-pays, coinsurance and deductibles for the cost of the administration of the H1N1 vaccine to our fully insured members, and we are encouraging our self-funded clients to do the same. We have also moved the antiviral medications Relenza and Tamiflu from Tier 3 to Tier 2 for all our members with pharmacy benefits. To ease the demand of provider offices and to encourage vaccination, we have contracted with additional provider settings such as pharmacies, retail clinics, and immunization administration vendors,, to administer the H1N1 vaccine for our members.

This letter specifically addresses the unique reimbursement terms being implemented by Anthem for Commercial HMO Medical Groups and IPAs with pmpm capitated arrangements.

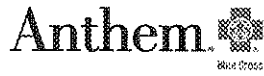
We recognize that the H1N1 virus presents a set of unusual circumstances to your physicians' practices and medical group/IPA. Anthem will be compensating participating medical groups outside of our usual capitated arrangement at \$13 per administration of the H1N1 vaccine, on a fee for service basis, for members assigned to your medical group/IPA. We believe this is an important exception to help minimize any potential access issues for our members, your patients, and to ensure we are partnering with you in funding the costs of these unforeseen administrative services.

Please refer to the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions document for administration billing procedures and other important information.

If a member has an encounter for medical services in addition to the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, then the general co-payment for that visit may be collected. If the member receives only the H1N1 vaccine during the visit, then the coding and processes outlined in the FAQs should be used, and the member should have no out-of-pocket costs.

The decision to cover the H1N1 vaccine administration is based on formal recommendations announced by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. This group has recommended that five key populations should be prioritized for the initial administration of the vaccine, including:

- pregnant women
- people who live with or care for children younger than six months of age
- health care and emergency services personnel
- children and young adults from 6 months old to 24 years old
- people from 25 through 64 years old if they have chronic medical conditions that increase their risk of complications from influenza infection.



Anthem will also continue coverage of seasonal flu vaccine administration for those whose health plans offer vaccine coverage. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that the H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine.

We appreciate your continued your support and attention given to this public health issue. If you have any questions, you can reach me at (818) 234-4817 or Kurt.Tamaru@Wellpoint.com.

Sincerely,

Kurt Tamaru, M.D.
Medical Director
Anthem Blue Cross



Frequently asked Questions for Providers H1N1 Vaccine Administration

What is the coverage policy for Anthem Blue Cross members regarding the H1N1 vaccination?

Anthem Blue Cross will reimburse for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine for all fully insured members regardless of the individual's benefit plan and ASO members with self insured employer plans unless the group specifically opts out of covering the vaccine. Additionally, Anthem Blue Cross will waive deductibles, co-pays and co-insurance for services related to the H1N1 vaccine administration and providing coverage for services regardless of a member's benefit coverage.

How should my practice bill for the H1N1 vaccine and administration service?

Please note that effective 9/28/2009, the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT Editorial Panel published a new code specific to administration of the H1N1 vaccine. The newly created CPT code, 90470 should be used to bill the administration of H1N1 immunization.

Submit all Claims except for FEP to:

Anthem Blue Cross
P.O. Box 60007
Los Angeles, CA 90060-0007

Federal Employee Program (FEP):

Anthem Blue Cross
P.O. Box 70000
Van Nuys, CA 91470

CPT code 90663 is used specifically for the H1N1 vaccine and not for its administration. Since the government is paying for the vaccine, providers do NOT need to bill for this; however, if you choose to use 90663, it should be billed at \$0.01 (1 cent) for administrative (non-reimbursable) purposes. The new CPT codes will help to efficiently report and track immunization and counseling services related to the H1N1 vaccine throughout the entire health care system.

For administration of *both* the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine at the same time, the recommended billing is:

- 90470 for the H1N1 administration, and for the seasonal flu vaccine administration the appropriate codes from 90466, 90468, 90472 or 90474 based on the individual's age and CPT coding directions.

If the H1N1 vaccine is being administered for two doses and the vaccine administration occurs on different dates of service, please bill each claim using the guidance noted above.

What are the guidelines from CMS?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has created two new HCPCS codes for H1N1, effective for dates of service on and after September 1, 2009:

1. G9141—Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family)
2. G9142—Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine

H1N1 administration claims will be processed using the diagnosis V04.81 (influenza), and using revenue code 771. Providers who bill via UB04, should report the vaccine administration using revenue code 771 and G9141 or 90470.

Since the H1N1 vaccine will be made available **at no cost to providers**, Medicare will not pay providers for the vaccine and providers should not attempt to collect payment from members. However, if the provider chooses to include G9142 or 90663 on the claim, you must bill \$0.01.

Do I have to bill for the H1N1 influenza vaccine – code 90663?

No; however, if you choose to bill for it you must submit the vaccine code with \$0.01.

How is the seasonal flu vaccine covered?

Anthem Blue Cross will still cover the seasonal flu vaccine and administration of the vaccine, in accordance with a member's benefit plan.

In order to be reimbursed, do I need to follow the CDC guidelines regarding age requirements for administration of the H1N1 vaccine?

The CDC has given guidance for the priority populations for vaccine administration. However, the decisions regarding vaccination are between the patient and physician based upon risk factors and other considerations.

As such, our policy does not limit access to the vaccine based on age alone. Where age is important, it is for the population that requires a second dose of the H1N1 vaccine. Therefore, it is important to include the age of your patients so that we may recognize the appropriateness of a second H1N1 vaccine administration claim.

How can I bill for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine in a non-physician office provider setting?

Please contact your provider network representative to discuss your billing guidelines.

Will Anthem Blue Cross accept roster billing?

Pharmacies, retail clinics, and nurse vaccination organizations that are interested in roster billing, should contact their provider network representative for guidelines and instructions.

How can I refer my patients to other providers who will administer the H1N1 vaccine if my practice is not offering it?

Your local Department of Health should have a list of providers who can administer the vaccine.

Are there quantity limit or other claim edits that may be assigned to these codes in their claims payment systems to ensure two H1N1 vaccines can be performed, billed and recognized within the payer system when delivered at two different patient visits?
Yes, the company has created edits which allow reimbursement for two H1N1 vaccines.

Are there edits that may deny payment of vaccine administration when there is no payment due for the vaccine itself?
No; however, some of our systems may have problems with a claim that has the H1N1 vaccine claim code submitted if it does have \$0.00 payment due. Therefore we are recommending that if a provider does choose to submit the CPT code for the vaccine, that you do so with \$0.01 payment due as described previously.

Is the H1N1 vaccine administration considered as part of the global period for OB/GYN?
No, the H1N1 vaccine administration is separately reimbursable during a member's pregnancy and is not included as part of the global period for OB/GYN.

Are there any additional instructions for filing on a UB04 vs. 1500?
For providers that plan on billing using a UB04, please contact your designated provider services representative.

How may I direct my patients and your members to answers for benefit questions they may have about H1N1?
We recommend our members start by looking at the Plan's internet website where we are posting answers to many commonly asked questions about H1N1. If our member is unable to find the answer to a specific question he/she may have about his or her H1N1 Plan benefits, our member services team at the number on the member's card is available to answer additional questions.

What is Anthem Blue Cross doing to ease the potential burden and demand upon physician offices that will result from H1N1?
Anthem Blue Cross has established agreements with other providers such as pharmacies, retail clinics, and nurse vaccination organizations to administer the H1N1 vaccine to our members. By increasing access to the H1N1 vaccine, we hope to minimize additional burden to physician offices.

What else has Anthem Blue Cross done to improve access to care for members?
In addition to providing first-dollar coverage for the administration of the vaccine to our fully insured members, we have also minimized financial barriers to treatment. Relenza and Tamiflu have been moved to Tier 2 for all products where the medications were previously Tier 3. There is no prior authorization required for either of these medications.

For further updates on billing guidelines and other important information, please go to the provider page at anthem.com and select your state/plan. Additionally, for information specific to your regional area, go to the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov/h1n1/vaccination/statecontacts.htm.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time of national emergency.