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## **Blue Shield of California's Policy on H1N1 Vaccine Administration to HMO Patients**

During the upcoming flu season, Blue Shield of California wants to make it as easy as possible for members to get the preventive care they need and for network HMO IPA/medical groups to take care of them. Here's some information that will provide the appropriate guidelines for administering the H1N1 vaccine for your HMO IPA/medical group members whose coverage is underwritten by Blue Shield.

- According to the preventive guidelines in Blue Shield's underwritten HMO plans, HMO members will not be responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs (co-payments) related to obtaining the H1N1 vaccine at their assigned IPA/medical group, as it is considered a preventive service, in the same category as other preventive shots and services.
- The H1N1 vaccine and supplies (including equipment, like syringes) are being provided free of charge to HMO providers by the U.S. Government, which relieves the HMO IPA/medical group of any financial liability for those elements.
- Any administrative costs, meaning costs resulting from the actual administration of the vaccine, are part of the capitation fee paid to the IPA/medical group by Blue Shield. There will not be any additional payment for administrative costs.
- If an HMO member goes to the IPA/medical group and receives other treatments or services, in addition to receiving the H1N1 vaccine on the same date, any applicable copayment for those other treatments or services should be applied according to plan policy.

If you have any questions about our policy on the H1N1 flu shot please contact your Blue Shield Provider Relations Representative or your Blue Shield Network Manager.

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