



## Coverage, billing information for novel H1N1 vaccine

With the impending delivery of the new vaccine for the novel influenza A (H1N1) flu virus, we want to make our network physicians aware of our policy concerning coverage of charges for administering the vaccine for BCBSNM members.

Some members' health plan medical benefits may not cover charges for the administration of vaccines. To ensure our members get the best treatment available, BCBSNM has implemented a policy to cover administration of the vaccine for members of our fully insured health plans without regard to whether their current plan covers vaccinations. We will cover this fee without applying it to members' deductibles or coinsurance. We will also work proactively with all our employers who have self-funded employer health benefit plans to recommend they adjust their benefit coverage to also cover administration of the vaccine.

To benefit from this special coverage, a member must receive the vaccination from a BCBSNM network provider. When visiting a provider who is not in the BCBSNM network, normal benefit coverage will apply.

This coverage will be available for the five priority populations the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends receive the vaccine first:

1. Pregnant women,
2. People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
3. Health care and emergency medical services personnel,
4. Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years, *and*
5. People ages 25 through 64 years who have chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Please use the following codes for the H1N1 administration and vaccine:

**90470** - H1N1 immunization administration (intramuscular, intranasal), including counseling when performed

**G9141** - Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family)

**90663** - Influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1

**G9142** - Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration

Since the vaccine is being supplied by the federal government at no charge, BCBSNM will allow \$0.01 for CPT codes 90663 and G9142. Submit one of the codes for the vaccine *only* if there is a need to record this for reporting purposes. It isn't necessary to receive a line on the claim for the vaccine for BCBSNM to process and pay for the administration.