

**Information on Provider Billing for H1N1 Vaccine Provided by the
West Virginia State Medical Association**

(Excerpted from WESGRAM ONLINE distributed 10/28/09)

With both seasonal influenza and H1N1 influenza circulating this flu season, the American Medical Association has expedited the publication of new health care codes specific to the H1N1 vaccine product.

The new Category I Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes issued by the AMA will streamline the reporting and reimbursement procedure for physicians and health care providers who are expected to administer nearly 200 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine in the United States. The codes will also help to efficiently report and track immunization and counseling services related to the H1N1 vaccine throughout the health care system.

In consultation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the AMA CPT Editorial Panel created code 90470 to report H1N1 immunization administration and counseling. Code 90663 was revised by the CPT Editorial Panel to refer specifically to the H1N1 vaccine product.

For quick reference, the two codes are below:

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

90663 -- Influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1

Any claim which references code G9142 and G 90663 for the H1N1 vaccine should be billed for \$0 dollars, since the federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge.

For more H1N1 information, please visit the AMA web site at www.ama-assn.org/go/h1n1 or the CDC's site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. Additionally for resources for your office on influenza and other vaccines visit www.immunize.org.

The H1N1 codes can be used alone if patients are coming in only for the H1N1 vaccine or can be combined with other codes if patients are there for other services, such as the seasonal influenza vaccine or care for a chronic condition.

The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics also issued new ICD-9 codes effective Oct. 1. The number 488.0 should be used for influenza due to identified avian influenza virus, and 488.1 is the one for influenza due to identified novel H1N1 influenza virus.

Payor Specific Information:

A number of payors have announced their plans for reimbursing for the H1N1 vaccine administrative costs.

As previously announced, **UnitedHealthcare** and their affiliated companies will reimburse for the administrative costs of H1N1 vaccine administration, regardless of the individual's benefit plan. As such, UnitedHealthcare and other health plans are waiving deductibles and providing coverage for services rendered by out-of-network physicians, public clinics and pharmacies.

Listed below is information regarding some of the other payors.

- **Medicare:** HCPCS G9141 should be used for the administration. HCPCS G9142 can be used for the vaccine.
- **Cigna:** Either the CPT code 90470 or the HCPCS G9141 should be used for administration. This can be accompanied by vaccine codes 90663 or G9142.
- **Aetna:** Either the CPT code 90470 or the HCPCS G9141 should be used for administration. Coding for the vaccine is unnecessary.
- **Priority Health:** CPT code 90470 or HCPCS G9141 should be used for the administration, although any of the relevant vaccine codes will be accepted.
- **Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield (Mountain State):** Will cover physician services for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine for most members enrolled in its health insurance products and encourages physicians to immunize Mountain State patients who belong to high-risk groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Additionally, Mountain State will cover the number of vaccinations recommended by the CDC for the member's age group and/or condition.

Providers are reminded to use NaviNet® or the applicable HIPAA electronic transactions to verify patients' active/current Mountain State membership before providing immunization services, as non-Mountain State members may not be covered. Remember that real-time functionality on NaviNet allows your practice to verify coverage at the point of service.)

If you have questions, it is advisable to contact the individual insurers to determine how the claims will be processed.