



HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA
A UnitedHealthcare Company



SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE
A UnitedHealthcare Company

H1N1 Vaccine Administration

1. What is Health Plan of Nevada (HPN) and Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company (SHL) covering related to the H1N1 vaccination?

HPN and SHL will reimburse for the administrative costs of H1N1 vaccine administration, regardless of the individual's benefit plan. As such, HPN and SHL are waiving deductibles and providing coverage for services rendered by out-of-network physicians, public clinics and pharmacies.

Based on its analysis of the current situation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended prioritizing the following population segments to receive the vaccine:

- Pregnant women;
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months of age;
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel;
- Children and young adults from six months through 24 years old; and
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have underlying health conditions that might increase their risk for flu-related complications.

Other population segments who wish to be immunized will be able to receive the H1N1 vaccine as it is made available.

Please note that under CDC guidelines, persons over 65 are not considered a prioritized group for H1N1 vaccination, but are considered a prioritized group for seasonal influenza vaccination. When supply of H1N1 vaccine becomes more plentiful, it will be available to persons not on the current priority lists. Persons over age 65 are less likely to become ill with H1N1 flu than younger persons, but if they do become ill, they are more likely to need hospital-based care.

For more information from the CDC on vaccines and immunizations visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or call 800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) or e-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov.

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

The American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Editorial Panel and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have developed special codes for the H1N1 pandemic. Please note that these are unique codes that permit us to administer special policies for this specific clinical interaction.

For all HPN and SHL members, health care professionals should bill CPT code **90663** (influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1) or **G9142** (influenza A vaccine [H1N1], any route of administration) on claims for the administration of the vaccine with ICD-9 code V04.81 (need for prophylactic vaccination and inoculation against influenza).

Claims should include the appropriate immunization administration code **90470** (H1N1 immunization administration [intramuscular, intranasal], including counseling when performed) or **G9141** (influenza A [H1N1] immunization administration [includes the physician counseling the patient/family]) in conjunction with code 90663 or G9142, respectively, for the administration of the vaccine.

To ensure proper processing, please include your allowable charge for 90663 or G9142 at \$0.00.

If this vaccine is being administered in two doses on different dates of service, please bill both claims using the guidance noted above.

3. What will I be paid for the administration of the vaccine?

Reimbursement for CPT codes 90470 or G9141 will be at your current contracted rate up to the Adjusted Medicare Allowable Amount for commercial and Medicare patients. For Medicaid patients HPN will pay for 90470 or G9141 at your current contracted rate up to the state-published Medicaid fee.

4. Does this affect coverage of seasonal flu vaccines?

No. HPN and SHL will still cover the seasonal flu vaccine and administration of the vaccine, in accordance with a member's benefit plan.

5. May I bill the administration services with an Evaluation & Management code?

Yes, HPN and SHL will reimburse for Evaluation and Management (E&M) services per the individual's benefit plan. HPN and SHL will reimburse vaccine administration services rendered on the same day as E&M services. For Senior Dimensions claims, please follow the Medicare guidelines for billing E&M services rendered on the same day of service.

6. I am an obstetrician and billing for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine for my pregnant patient during the global period. Will this service be covered or considered part of the global reimbursement?

HPN and SHL will pay for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine for pregnant women, regardless of benefit design. If the office visit is solely for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, then report the H1N1 vaccine and administration codes. If the visit requires a face-to-face visit with a physician that is not part of a routine antepartum visit, then report the appropriate E&M code with a primary diagnosis for the H1N1 vaccination using ICD-9 code V04.81, in addition to the H1N1 vaccine and administration codes. If the H1N1 vaccine is administered during a routine antepartum visit, do not report an E&M service but report the H1N1 codes as instructed above.

For women receiving no pre-natal services at that visit, who are seen solely for the purpose of H1N1 flu immunization, the appropriate E&M code is frequently CPT code 99211 (office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient that may not require the presence of a physician). Usually, the presenting problems(s) are minimal.

7. Are there any age limitations on reimbursing for H1N1 vaccine administration or age requirements associated with billing?

The CDC has given guidance for the priority populations for vaccine administration. Ultimately, 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.

The CDC recommendation states that children between six months of age and nine who are being vaccinated against influenza for the first time need to receive two doses. Further, the CDC recommends that the two doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine be separated by four weeks. Therefore, we will require information regarding the patient's age on the claim so that we may appropriately process a second claim for H1N1 vaccine administration.

8. My practice is not administering the H1N1 vaccine. Where can I get a list of network health care professionals that I can use to identify local practices to refer my patients?

If you choose not to administer the vaccine, we encourage you to refer your patients to public health immunization clinics, pharmacies and physicians that participate in the networks in your local area that will offer H1N1 immunizations for your patients who are insured by HPN and SHL.