



August 27, 2010

Re: Influenza Vaccine

Dear IEHP Provider:

On July 29, 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published new recommendations regarding the use of influenza vaccine for the 2010-2011 influenza season. The following changes and updates are made to the 2010-2011 recommendation:

1. Routine influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons 6 months of age and older
2. Children 6 months to 8 years of age should receive 2 doses of a 2010–11 seasonal influenza vaccine (minimum interval: 4 weeks) during the 2010–11 influenza season if they meet the following criteria:
 - vaccination status is unknown
 - never received seasonal influenza vaccine before
 - received seasonal vaccine for the first time in 2009–10 but received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination
 - did not receive at least 1 dose of an influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine regardless of previous influenza vaccine history
3. The 2010–11 trivalent vaccines will contain A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens
4. Information about newly approved TIV vaccines (Fluzone High Dose) and vaccines with expanded age indications (Fluarix, Agriflu, and Afluria) is included.

The following list delineates the new recommendations for using Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) and live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) during the 2010-2011 Influenza Season:

1. All persons aged 6 months and older should be vaccinated annually

2. Protection of persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routine vaccination of all persons aged 6 months and older
3. When vaccine supply is limited, vaccination efforts should focus on delivering vaccination to persons who:
 - are aged 6 months--4 years (59 months);
 - are aged 50 years and older;
 - have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurologic, hematologic, or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
 - are immunosuppressed (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
 - are or will be pregnant during the influenza season;
 - are aged 6 months--18 years and receiving long-term aspirin therapy and who therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
 - are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities;
 - are American Indians/Alaska Natives;
 - are morbidly obese (body-mass index is 40 or greater);
 - are health-care personnel;
 - are household contacts and caregivers of children aged younger than 5 years and adults aged 50 years and older, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged younger than 6 months; and
 - are household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza.

Information regarding vaccine choice for persons aged ≥ 65 years

As with other 2010--11 influenza vaccines, Fluzone High-Dose will contain the three recommended virus strains (A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens). ACIP recommends that all persons aged ≥ 65 years receive an inactivated 2010--11 seasonal influenza vaccination but has not expressed a preference for Fluzone High-Dose or any other inactivated influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 65 years. Whether or not the higher post-vaccination immune responses observed among Fluzone High-Dose vaccine recipients will result in greater protection against influenza illness is not known. High-dose vaccine should not be administered to persons aged < 65 years.

IEHP Criteria for use of LAIV

LAIV is approved only for use in healthy persons aged 2-49 years, no recommendations for prioritization of LAIV use are made. ACIP has not indicated a preference for LAIV or TIV when considering vaccination of healthy, non-pregnant persons aged 2-49 years. Providers should use TIV over LAIV in most circumstances.

Reimbursement

VFC covered vaccines

VFC (Vaccines for Children)-eligible children who are aged 6 months through 18 years should receive influenza vaccination through VFC program.

IEHP Medi-Cal (Over 18 years old), Healthy Families, Healthy Kids and Medicare DualChoice

IEHP will reimburse practitioners the cost of the vaccine for IEHP Medi-Cal (over 18 years old), Healthy Families, Healthy Kids and Medicare DualChoice Members. Submit your completed CMS1500 claim form with the correct CPT code to **IEHP Claims Dept., P.O. Box 10129 San Bernardino, CA 92423.**

Please see the following table for NDC codes and the corresponding reimbursement rates.

CPT CODE	DRUG NAME & DOSE	REIMBURSEMENT RATE*	VACCINE
90655	Fluzone 0.25mL	\$12.70	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free , 6-35 months dosage, for intramuscular (single dose)
90656	Afluria 0.5mL Fluzone 0.5mL Fluarix 0.5mL Fluvirin 0.5mL	\$11.90	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free , 3 years and above dosage, for intramuscular (single dose)
90657	Fluzone 0.25mL	\$11.90	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, 6-35 months dosage, for intramuscular
90658	Afluria 0.5mL Fluzone 0.5mL Fluvirin 0.5mL FluLaval 0.5mL** Agriflu 0.5mL**	\$11.90	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, 3 years and above dosage, for intramuscular
90662	Fluzone High Dose	\$25.50	Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, enhanced immunogenicity via increased antigen content, for intramuscular

*Cost as of August 2010, rates will be adjusted to the current pricing

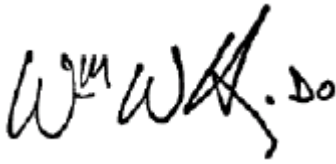
**FluLaval and Agriflu are indicated for >18 years old

Information regarding influenza surveillance, prevention, detection, and control is available on CDC/NCID's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

Surveillance information is available through the CDC Voice Information System at 888-CDC-FACT (888-232-3228) or CDC Fax Information Service at 888-CDC-FAXX (888-232-3299).

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please call us at (909) 890-2067.

Sincerely,



William Henning, D.O.
Chief Medical Officer



Chris Chan, Pharm.D.
Director of Pharmaceutical Services