



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

September 28, 2009

Re: H1N1 Vaccine

Dear IEHP Provider:

On July 29, 2009, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published new recommendations regarding the use of the new H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available. The groups recommended to receive the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine include:

- **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;
- **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than 6 months old might help protect infants by “cocooning” them from the virus;
- **Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce healthcare system capacity;
- **All people from 6 months through 24 years of age**
 - **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** because we have seen many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread, and
 - **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because we have seen many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population; and,
- **Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.**

If there is a shortage in the vaccine, the following groups are recommended to receive the vaccine before others:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact,

- children 6 months through 4 years of age, and
- children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

Once the demand for vaccine for the prioritized groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers should also begin vaccinating everyone from the ages of 25 through 64 years. Current studies indicate that the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. However, once vaccine demand among younger age groups has been met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people 65 or older.

IEHP will reimburse practitioners the cost of the administration (2009 H1N1 Flu vaccine) for IEHP Members.

2009 Influenza Vaccination Reimbursement:

- Annual Seasonal Influenza - \$4.50 Admin Fee payable through P4P for children
- H1N1 - \$9.00 Admin Fee – see below

Children (PM160)

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|---------------------|--|
| Vaccine: | H1N1 |
| PM160 Code: | H1 |
| Number in Series: | 2 shots = 0 through 9 years (Note: children < 9 years should receive 2 doses, with a recommended interval of 21-28 days) 1 shot = 10 years through 18 years |
| Administration Fee: | \$9.00 |
| Submit PM160 to: | Online only |

Adults (EDI or CMS-1500)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Vaccine: | H1N1 |
| HCPCS Code: | G9141 |
| Number in Series: | 1 shot = 19 years and over |
| Administration Fee : | \$9.00 for Medi-Cal & Medicare Fee Schedule for Medicare |
| Submit ANSI-837 electronic claims to: | <i>Through your clearinghouse</i> |
| Submit CMS 1500 to: | <i>IEHP Claims Department P O Box 10129 San Bernardino, CA 92423</i> |

Providers who are interested in providing H1N1 flu vaccines should register through www.calpanflu.org immediately. Please visit our website at

<http://ww2.iehp.org/IEHP/Providers/FluUpdates.htm> or CDC website for the latest guidance.

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