

TO: Nursing Facilities  
Intermediate Care Facilities/Mental Retardation  
State and County Governmental Psychiatric Hospitals  
Residential Treatment Centers  
Providers of Pharmaceutical Services

SUBJECT: Influenza Update - 1993

The purpose of this Newsletter is to share with you this year's recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee on Prevention and Control of Influenza: Part I, Vaccines, published by the United States Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), May 14, 1993, Vol. 42, No. RR-6, pp. 1-14 and MMWR, May 15, 1992, Vol. 41, No. RR-9, pp. 10-13. The new Part II 1993-1994 anti-viral recommendations will be published in the MMWR this fall.

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services would like to remind providers of long term care services that influenza immunization is a covered service for Medicaid recipients. In addition, the prevention of influenza in nursing facilities and other institutional settings is a high priority. As a result, the Division is sending the attached publication to you for your information.

The Pharmaceutical Consultant in the Medicaid District Office can advise you of the procedure if you are not already familiar with the method used in obtaining and billing for a vaccine used in a long term care setting. However, it is important to remember that although the physician orders the immunization for the patient, he/she may not bill for the administration in a health care facility where facility staff normally administers the injection.

This is also a reminder that for dually eligible Medicare/Medicaid recipients, influenza virus vaccine is now reimbursed 100% by MEDICARE. Therefore, in such cases the MEDICARE INTERMEDIARY must be billed for the influenza virus vaccine.

Attachment

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