



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 No. 39

July 1996

TO: Physicians, Certified Nurse Specialists/Clinical Nurse Practitioners, Independent Clinics (including FQHCs), Hospitals - Chief Executive Officer, and

Health Maintenance Organizations - **(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

SUBJECT: Coverage and Reimbursement Policy for Immunization Against Varicella (Chicken Pox)

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 1996

BACKGROUND: According to the new recommended immunization schedule published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Council on Immunization Practices, in the January 5, 1996 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports, varicella (chicken pox) vaccination is recommended for all children at 12 - 18 months of age. It is also recommended at 11-12 years of age for those children who have not previously received the vaccine and have no history of having had varicella (chicken pox).

ACTION: The New Jersey Medicaid program shall reimburse physicians, certified nurse specialists/clinical nurse practitioners, hospitals and independent clinics for immunization against varicella (chicken pox) provided in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Coverage for immunization against varicella (chicken pox) applies to Medicaid beneficiaries whether in the fee-for-service or managed health care programs. Garden State Health Plan and Health Maintenance Organizations' (HMOs) policies and procedures remain in effect.

For specific indications and contraindications concerning varicella (chicken pox) vaccine, practitioners are asked to refer to the packet insert provided by the manufacturer.

BILLING INSTRUCTIONS:

Providers should use the "Report and Claim for EPSDT/HealthStart Screening and Related Procedures" (MC-19) form when billing for varicella (chicken pox) immunization administered in conjunction with a HealthStart or EPSDT preventive health care visit. Otherwise, the HCFA 1500 claim form should be used for billing this service.

Providers who bill on a fee-for-service basis should use HCPCS 90716 procedure code when billing for immunization with varicella (chicken pox) vaccine. The maximum fee allowance for the HCPCS 90716 is \$48.00, which includes the vaccine and the administration. Providers who are billing for the injection only (i.e., when the biological agent is free) should use **HCPCS 90716-52** and will be reimbursed \$2.50.

For further information or questions regarding this Newsletter, providers whose Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in managed care plans should contact their respective Health Maintenance Organizations.

For further information or questions regarding this Newsletter, providers whose Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in the Garden State Health Plan should contact 1-800-525-0047.

For further information or questions regarding this Newsletter, providers reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis should contact Danuta Buzdygan, M.D., Chief Pediatric Consultant, Office of Health Service Administration, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, at (609)588-2718.

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