



## Medicare Coverage & Payment for Immunizations



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# History of Coverage of Preventive Services including Immunizations



- Medicare program established in 1965
- Coverage for individual preventive services specified in statute, including certain immunizations, began in the 1980s. Additional prevention coverage may now be added through the National Coverage Determination (NCD) process.

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# Medicare Part B Coverage of Preventive Services -- What is Covered?

- “Welcome To Medicare” visit (Initial Preventive Physical Examination or “IPPE”)
- Annual Wellness Visit (or “AWV”)
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening
- Alcohol misuse screening and counseling
- Bone mass measurement
- Breast cancer screening (mammogram)
- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) Risk Reduction Visit
- Cardiovascular disease screenings
- Cervical and vaginal cancer screening
- Colorectal cancer screenings
  - Screening fecal occult blood test
  - Multi-target stool DNA screening test (Cologuard)
  - Screening flexible sigmoidoscopy
  - Screening colonoscopy
  - Screening barium enema
- Depression screening
- Diabetes screenings
- Diabetes self-management training
- **Flu shots (Vaccine)**
- Glaucoma tests
- **Hepatitis B shots (Vaccine)**
- Hepatitis C Virus Screening
- HIV screening
- Medical nutrition therapy services
- Obesity screening and counseling
- **Pneumococcal shot (Vaccine)**
- Prostate cancer screening
- Sexually transmitted infections screening and counseling
- Tobacco use cessation counseling

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## **“Welcome to Medicare” Visit (Initial Preventive Physical Exam)**

### **“IPPE”**

- One-time preventive visit within the first 12 months of Part B enrollment, which includes:
  - a review of the patient’s medical and social history
  - education and counseling on recommended preventive services
  - additional preventive tests or services, or referrals for such tests or services, depending on the patient’s general health and medical history.

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## **Billing and Coding for IPPE**

- Medicare covers an IPPE when performed by a:
  - Physician (a doctor of medicine or osteopathy); or
  - Qualified non-physician practitioner (a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified clinical nurse specialist).
- When you furnish a significant, separately identifiable, medically necessary Evaluation and Management (E/M) service in addition to the IPPE, Medicare may pay separately for the additional service.

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## Annual Wellness Visit

- Medicare covers an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) providing Personalized Prevention Plan Services (PPPS) for beneficiaries who:
  - Are not within the first 12 months of Part B enrollment and
  - Have not received an Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) or AWV within the past 12 months.
- The AWV includes a Health Risk Assessment (HRA).

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## Billing and Coding For AWV

- Medicare Part B covers an AWV if performed by a:
  - Physician (a doctor of medicine or osteopathy);
  - Qualified non-physician practitioner (a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified clinical nurse specialist); or
  - Medical professional (including a health educator, registered dietitian, nutrition professional, or other licensed practitioner) or a team of such medical professionals who are working under the direct supervision of a physician (doctor of medicine or osteopathy).
- When you provide a significant, separately identifiable, medically necessary Evaluation and Management (E/M) service in addition to the AWV, Medicare may separately pay for the additional service.

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## Immunization Coverage Medicare Part B vs. Part D

### Part B covers...

- Hepatitis B
- Seasonal Influenza
- Pneumococcal

### Part D may cover...

- Vaccines not covered by Part B
- Drug and Vaccine on Plan Formulary
- New preventive vaccines

Both Medicare Part B and Part D cover the administration **and** the vaccine.

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## Payment for Immunizations under Medicare Part B

Total payment = Cost of Vaccine + Compensation for Vaccine Administration

### Payment for Vaccine

- National payment allowance for vaccines is based on Average Wholesale Price (AWP)
  - Flu amount updated annually
  - Hepatitis B and pneumococcal amounts updated quarterly

### Payment for Administration of Vaccine

- Linked to payment for services under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
- Allowed amount varies based on Medicare payment locality

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## Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Payment and Pricing

- Medicare Part B payment allowance for seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccines is 95% of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) as reflected in published compendia, except when the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department
- When the vaccine is furnished in a hospital outpatient department, payment for the vaccine is based on reasonable cost. Payment for administering the vaccine is made under the hospital outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS).
- Payment allowances and effective dates for the 2014-2015 flu season can be found at: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html>

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## Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Payment and Pricing

- Medicare typically pays for one seasonal influenza virus vaccination per influenza season
- A beneficiary could receive the seasonal influenza virus vaccine twice in a calendar year for two different influenza seasons and the provider would be paid for each.
  - For example, a beneficiary could receive a seasonal influenza virus vaccination in January 2011 for the 2010-2011 influenza season and another seasonal influenza virus vaccination in November 2011 for the 2011-2012 influenza season and Medicare would pay for both vaccinations.

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## Medicare Part B Billing Requirements Provider Enrollment

- Providers must enroll in the Medicare program even if immunizations are the only service they will provide to beneficiaries.
- For Influenza and PPV: Mass immunization roster billers should enroll as provider specialty type 73 by completing Form CMS-855I for individuals or Form CMS-855B for a group.

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## Medicare Part B Billing Requirements Who Can Bill

- Physicians
- Suppliers
- Hospices
- Public Health Clinics
- Self-Employed Nurses
- Non-Skilled Nursing Homes
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Mass Immunization Providers
- Hospitals (including Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Indian Health Service (IHS) hospitals, and IHS CAHs)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
- Certified Home Health Agencies (HHAs)
- Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs)
- Independent and Hospital-Based Renal Dialysis Facilities

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## Medicare Part B Billing Requirements Filing Part B Claims

- All physicians, non-physician practitioners and suppliers must accept assignment on the claim for the vaccine.
- All data fields that are required for any Part A or Part B claim are required for vaccines and their administration.
- Billers have 12 months from the date of service to file claims to the Medicare program; otherwise claims will be denied.
- Immunization Procedure Codes & Descriptors can be found at: [http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr\\_immun\\_bill.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf)

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## Medicare Part D Coverage for Immunizations

- The Part D program covers vaccine administration costs as a component of the negotiated price for a Part D vaccine, which includes:
  - Dispensing fee (if applicable)
  - Sales tax
  - Vaccine administration fee and
  - Vaccine ingredient cost
- Part D plans should not charge separate coinsurance or copayments for the vaccine and its administration. If coinsurance or a copayment applies, it should apply to the entire price of both components.

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## Medicare Part D Billing for Immunizations

- May bill Part D vaccines and associated administration costs as a single claim to the Part D plan.
- Call the patient's Part D plan to discuss cost-sharing and allowable charges for the vaccine.

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## Resources

- **CMS website:**
  - <http://www.cms.gov/Immunizations/> (for access to English/Spanish articles, mini-posters and other documents of use with patients).
- **CMS Internet Only Manuals:**
  - Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15 – Covered Medical and Other Health Services  
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/TherapyServices/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf>
  - Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18 – Preventive and Screening Services  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c18.pdf>
- **CMS Frequently Asked Questions** - <http://questions.cms.gov/faq.php>

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## Additional Resources

- **Medicare Learning Network:**
  - MLN Matters® Article #SE1431, “2014-2015 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals.” <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/se1431.pdf>
  - MLN Fact Sheet on Part D covered vaccines, “Vaccine Payments under Medicare Part D” <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Vaccines-Part-D-Factsheet-ICN908764.pdf>
  - MLN Matters® Article #MM8890, “Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2014-2015 Season” <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8890.pdf>
  - “[Quick Reference Information: Preventive Services](#)” Educational Tool

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## Additional Resources

- MLN Matters® Article #9051, “Modifications to Medicare Part B Coverage of Pneumococcal Vaccinations” <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9051.pdf> also see message released on 1/29/15 <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/Health-Observance-Messages-New-Items/2015-01-29-Pneumococcal.html?DLPage=1&DLSort=o&DLSortDir=descending>
- “Mass Immunizers and Roster Billing” [http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Mass\\_Immunize\\_Roster\\_Bill\\_factsheet\\_ICN907275.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Mass_Immunize_Roster_Bill_factsheet_ICN907275.pdf)
- “Medicare Part B Immunization Billing” [http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/qr\\_immun\\_bill.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/qr_immun_bill.pdf)
- The ABCs of the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) [http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AWV\\_Chart\\_ICN905706.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AWV_Chart_ICN905706.pdf)
- The ABCs of the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) [http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS\\_QRI\\_IPPE001a.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf)

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