



## NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

# Influenza Activity Spotlights

Friday, September 19, 2008

Issue #4

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### Professional Medical Organizations

Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. **Note:** News of the fourth quarter 2008 Medicare product payment rates from CMS reached us after the September 17 Summit conference call was held. We thought it would be beneficial to let all of our readers know this information now. The table shown below depicts the product payment rates; complete information can be found on the [CMS webpage](#).

These rates are for the costs of vaccine only; payment for administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines should also be included in the billing, using HCPCS codes G0008 and G0009, respectively. Administration rates can be found on the [CMS site](#) by following the prompts to find the specific administration pricing per locality. The actual service codes are G0008 or G0009, but these payments are based upon a link to CPT code 90471; so, the HCPCS code to “look up” is 90471. Remember, for the administration services, the payment rate annual update occurs in January.

HCPCS Code	Short Description	HCPCS Code Dosage	Payment Limit
90655	Flu vaccine no preservative, 6-35m, IM	0.25 ML	\$16.879
90656	Flu vaccine no preservative, 3yrs & over, IM	0.50 ML	\$18.198
90657	Flu vaccine, 6-35m, IM	0.25 ML	\$6.609
90658	Flu vaccine age 3yrs & over, IM	0.5 ML	\$13.218
90660	Flu vaccine, intranasal	0.2 ML	\$22.316
90669	Pneumococcal vaccine, ped <5yrs, IM	0.5 ML	\$78.803
90732	Pneumococcal vaccine	0.5 ML	\$32.703

2. At this year’s American Osteopathic Association meeting, Dr. Gregory James presented on the issues that were raised at the 2008 National Influenza Vaccine Summit meeting. Dr. James has kindly agreed to share his [slides](#) with the Summit.
3. There was some discussion on the Wednesday September 17 conference call about the [ABC news story](#) that aired last April on the impact of co-infection of influenza with methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus* (MRSA).

4. The American Lung Association's influenza vaccination clinic locator, Flu Clinic Locator, went live on September 16. There are icons on many of the Summit's web pages that will connect viewers to the clinic locator or you can also go to <http://www.flucliniclocator.org>.
5. The CDC and Families Fighting Flu video titled "Why Flu Vaccination Matters" will be released on September 24, to coincide with the NFID's National Influenza Press Conference in Washington, DC. Two versions will be available, a 1-minute abridged version and the complete 6-minute version that many of us saw at the May Summit meeting. To obtain a free DVD with both versions, please [email](#) or call Adele Viskin at the Academy for Educational Development or (202) 884-8526. It will also be posted on the Summit's website in the very near future.
6. The NFID National Influenza Press Conference serves for many as the unofficial launch of influenza season. This year, it will be on September 24 at 10 AM at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Dr. Julie Gerberding will be the keynote speaker. Renee Jenkins, President of the AAP, Kerry Weems, Acting CMS Administrator, and Ardis Hoven, Trustee of the AMA are also presenters. The NFID welcomes Summit partners who may wish to attend the conference, but please contact Vicki Amari directly via [email](#) or telephone to pre-register for the event; 212-886-2290).
7. A [recent article](#) was just published in the *NEJM* on the positive impact of vaccination of pregnant women on the infants that are delivered. This article will be the subject of a discussion on the Summit's call on Wednesday, September 24. This discussion will be led by Tim Uyeki, MD from the CDC.
8. Supply Update! We heard on Wednesday's call that as of September 5, about 35 million doses of vaccine have been distributed and that about 148M doses are still expected this season. VFC vaccine is also being shipped on schedule – any differences between private and public vaccine distribution is a reflection of the different manufacturers of vaccines releasing vaccine over varying times.
9. National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is December 8 through December 14, 2008. This is the third year that the NIVW campaign will be conducted to improve post-Thanksgiving influenza immunization rates. Again, it is important that this is about immunizing more vulnerable people, it is NOT about having more time to immunize the same patient base.
10. September 21 through September 27, 2008 is National Adult Immunization Awareness Week!
11. To volunteer for the various working groups that have formed for this upcoming season, please email [Jim Harrison](#) and [L.J Tan](#). The working groups are (1) Communications/Consumer; (2) Health Care Provider; (3) Payment; (4) Occupational Health.
12. The National Influenza Vaccine Summit website has evolved into a national leading resource for all things related to influenza. Please share this important resource with your colleagues: [www.preventinfluenza.org](http://www.preventinfluenza.org).