

Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
H1N1 Coding Update
November 10, 2009

The AMA has come out with a new CPT code for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, **90470**, and revised existing code **90663** to include the H1N1 vaccine itself. CMS has also created HCPCS codes for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, **G9141**, and for the vaccine itself, **G9142**. The vaccine is provided free of charge by the federal government so physicians will not be reimbursed for the vaccine product, only the administration. There is discrepancy between payers about which code set to use and the appropriate dollar amount to be listed for the vaccine. Some payers and billing systems may not be able to accommodate a zero dollar charge. Please see the information below for guidelines for reporting each code set:

From The American Academy of Pediatrics:

Effective immediately, the H1N1 influenza vaccine should be reported as follows:

90470 - H1N1 immunization administration (intramuscular, intranasal), including counseling when performed

90663 - Influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, H1N1

Medicare Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) values are currently being established for code **90470**. Toward that end, the American of Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has sent a letter to major carriers urging them to pay no less than current Medicare rates for the administration. You can access that letter at www.aap.org/moc/reimburse/privatesector.htm.

From The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS):

These codes are effective for dates of service on and after September 1, 2009.

G9141 - Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family)

G9142 - Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine, any route of administration.

In an effort to assist providers, TNAAP is collecting billing guidelines from various payers for reporting the H1N1 vaccine and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Please see below for various payer reporting guidelines:

Note: It may be necessary to verify with the carrier on billing requirements specific to the plan's systems. Carrier claims payment platforms vary and there may be differences in how the system process claims for vaccines with no charge. Some carriers such as UnitedHealthcare (UHC) have reported their systems cannot accept a \$0.00 charge. In these cases, the provider ***must obtain in writing from the carrier***, specific instructions for reporting the H1N1 influenza vaccine since it would be considered fraud to charge for a state- or federally-supplied vaccine that is provided at no charge unless there is documentation from the carrier on billing instructions.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee

BCBST fully-insured members will receive full coverage for the H1N1 vaccination when it becomes available, including those in TennCare (**BlueCare** or **TennCare Select**) and Medicare Advantage plans. They are instructing providers to report G9141 Influenza A (H1N1) immunization administration (includes the physician counseling the patient/family) for this service.

Provider Service Lines:

BlueCare 1-800-468-9736

TennCare Select 1-800-276-1978

UnitedHealthcare/AmeriChoice:

Members and health care professionals should bill CPT code **90663** (influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation, (H1N1) or **G9142** (influenza A vaccine [H1N1], any route of administration) on claims for the administration of the vaccine with ICD-9 code V04.81 (need for prophylactic vaccination and inoculation against influenza).

Claims should include the appropriate immunization administration code **90470** (H1N1 immunization administration [intramuscular, intranasal], including counseling when performed) or **G9141** (influenza A [H1N1] immunization administration [includes the physician counseling the patient/family]) in conjunction with code 90663 or G9142, respectively, for the administration of the vaccine.

To ensure proper processing, please include your allowable charge for 90663 or G9142 at \$0.01. Services billed with vaccine allowable charges at \$0.00 may not be processed.

If this vaccine is being administered in two doses on different dates of service, please bill both claims using the guidance noted above.

Where state governments have provided billing instructions for Medicaid patients, please check AmeriChoice.com for the latest information on specific billing guidance.

Amerigroup:

CPT code 90470 should be reported for the H1N1 vaccine administration and 90663 for the vaccine itself. Claims can be processed with a \$.00 charge for the vaccine. The CPT codes for H1N1 have been loaded into the Amerigroup claims processing system.

Aetna:

CPT code **90470** or HCPCS code **G9141** are the codes that may be used to submit claims for H1N1 vaccine administration.

Since the H1N1 vaccine will be made available at no cost to providers, Aetna will not pay providers for the vaccine. Providers do not need to place **90663** or **G9142** (H1N1 vaccine code) on the claim.

The main Aetna website (www.aetna.com) has a link to H1N1 material right on the home page.

Cigna:

The web address for CIGNA's provider portal is www.cignaforhcp.com which includes updated H1N1 vaccine coding guidelines for CIGNA network providers. CIGNA's claims systems will accept either the G9141 or 90470 code for the H1N1 vaccine administration with exactly the same payment.

Humana:

The new CPT codes 90663 and 90470 are being set up in the Humana claims system. Additional information will be forthcoming.

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