



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 840

DATE: October 2, 2009

TO: Iowa Medicaid Dentists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Opticians, Pharmacies, Physical Therapists, Chiropractors, Audiologists, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Rehabilitation Agencies, Intermediate Care Facilities, Community Mental Health, Residential Care Facilities, ICFR MR State, Mental Hospitals, Community Based ICF/MR, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Certified Nurse Midwives, Birthing Centers, Area Education Agencies, Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children, Case Managers, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Hospices Clinical Social Workers, Nursing Facility-Mental Ill, Local Education Agencies, Early Access Service Coordinators, Indian Health Service, Institutional- General, Remedial Services, Habilitation, and PACE Providers

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

RE: 2009 Flu Vaccine Update

Iowa Medicaid is issuing this informational release to update all Iowa Medicaid providers regarding coverage of flu vaccines for 2009. In a separate mailing, the IME will be reminding all Medicaid members to communicate with their primary care providers to determine who should receive the current vaccines.

As always, the IME will pay for administration of the regular flu shots for all covered Medicaid members when the vaccine is covered under the VFC program. The vaccine and administration codes will be the same as in prior years. The vaccine and administration is also covered for all those where the VFC program does not apply. This year all people are encouraged to receive the regular flu vaccine and to receive it early.

H1N1 vaccine will be free to all providers; questions about vaccine distribution and availability should be addressed to the Iowa Department of Public Health. The IME is responsible for the administration charges for vaccines given to Iowa Medicaid members.

The H1N1 vaccination efforts focus on five key populations. Those populations include those who are at higher risk of disease or complications, those who are likely to come in contact with H1N1, and those who could infect young infants. The CDC is currently recommending that the following populations be vaccinated:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months old,
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel,
- Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years old,

- People from ages 25-64 years who are at higher risk for H1N1 because of chronic health problems or compromised immune systems.

The IME encourages providers to identify Medicaid members who are included in the key populations that should receive the H1N1 immunization and **encourage them to obtain a vaccination.**

IowaCare Polk County residents should contact their provider at Broadlawns to find out how to get a regular flu shot and discuss the need for the H1N1 flu shot. All other IowaCare members should contact the Nurse Helpline at 1-866-890-5966 for instructions.

Women enrolled in the Iowa Family Planning Network (IFPN) will not be covered by Medicaid for either flu shot, but are still encouraged to discuss these vaccines with their health care provider or the local Public Health Department.

Should you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services at 515-725-1004 or 800-338-7909, or via email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.