



INDEPENDENT *Link*

October 9, 2009

Published by the TENNESSEE PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION and sponsored by PHARMACY PLUS

H1N1 Vaccine Orders from the State of Tennessee

By now, all pharmacist providers pre-registered on the TWIS network as H1N1 distributors and administrators should have received their PIN number and instructions for completing the provider agreement and placing orders for H1N1 vaccine from the State of Tennessee. You would have received this info via email from Brian Moore with the State of Tennessee. You will need this PIN number to complete the provider agreement and to place orders for the H1N1 vaccination. This PIN number is unique to your distribution and administration site, and should be used in all subsequent communications with the State of Tennessee. THE DEADLINE FOR INITIAL H1N1 VACCINATION ORDERS IS OCTOBER 15, 2009.

If you pre-registered on the H1N1 site and have not received your PIN number, please contact Micah Cost at the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, 615-256-3023.

Important reminders regarding the H1N1 vaccination:

- All patients receiving either the live intranasal or inactivated injection form of the H1N1 vaccination **MUST** be provided with a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) at the time of administration. The VIS for live intranasal as well as inactivated injections can be found at www.immunize.org/vis/.
- Pharmacists administering the vaccination must also report all H1N1 vaccination doses given, up to the first 40 million, to the State of Tennessee online at <http://health.State.tn.us/twis/> through the site's survey reporting system. The report for each week (Sunday - Saturday) must be reported to the State electronically by the following Tuesday at 12 noon Central Time.

Additional information about vaccine administration may be found on the TWIS website at <http://health.State.tn.us/twis/>. For the TWIS Hotline, call 1-877-737-4550 (or 615-532-6180) or email (preferred) H1N1.vaccine@tn.gov. Always reference your PIN number.

DMEPOS Update

From NCPA: CMS has provided NCPA with additional information for pharmacists who are making decisions about what to do regarding their participation in the Medicare Part B DMEPOS program, given that the Senate and House have both passed an extension of the DME accreditation deadline for pharmacies until January 1, 2010.

- The National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) will not process pending "step-down" applications received from pharmacies during the week of September 28th. This means that pharmacies may continue to bill for all of the products and services for which they were licensed and/or approved by the NSC to furnish prior to submission of the "step-down" request. Thus, the NSC will not need to reprocess these submissions.
- If a pharmacy made the decision to voluntarily terminate its relationship with Medicare and the pharmacy would like to continue to maintain its DMEPOS billing privileges, the pharmacy must notify the NSC in writing by **October 23, 2009**, that it is rescinding its previous voluntary termination request. This request should be signed by the authorized or delegated official on file with the NSC.
- Finally, as a reminder, pharmacies are **subject** to the surety bond requirements. Thus, if a pharmacy has not obtained and submitted a surety bond, the pharmacy is required to do so.

CIGNA Claims for State Employees' Vaccine Benefits

On October 2, employees of the State of Tennessee who are covered by its group insurance program were notified that 1) they could get their seasonal flu, H1N1 and pneumococcal vaccines without having to meet their deductible or paying coinsurance or copays; 2) the health plans would now pay for vaccines regardless of whether they are received from a pharmacist or doctor's office; and 3) the copays for the critical flu-related prescription drugs would now be lower - \$25 - with a prescription from the doctor. This notice to State employees has been posted on the TPA website at www.tnpharm.org/MembersOnly/Immunization/TN_employee_flu_benefits.pdf.

TPA has been working with CIGNA Healthcare to obtain detailed instructions for pharmacies for processing claims for immunizations provided to State employees covered by CIGNA. The following information provides instructions to pharmacies for processing these claims through CIGNA.

- **From October 1, 2009, through October 31, 2009, ONLY, CIGNA claims should be submitted under the Medical Benefit.** Claims can be submitted using a HCFA 1500, on paper or electronically, from October 1, 2009, through October 31, 2009. A paper HCFA 1550 can be downloaded from the TPA website, www.tnpharm.org/MembersOnly/Immunization/HCFA-CMS1500.pdf. Submit paper claims to CIGNA Healthcare, P.O. Box 182223, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7223. Pharmacies with the ability to submit via electronic clearinghouse for medical claims (not through Argus) can use CIGNA's payor ID (62308). When billing to CIGNA via the HCFA process, the pharmacy or pharmacist should use the tax ID or Social Security number normally used as the provider ID.
- **Beginning November 1, 2009, submit CIGNA claims under the Pharmacy Benefit via the online system (Argus),** just as for any prescription for CIGNA members. CIGNA's pharmacy claims processing system will be coded for these benefit changes beginning November 1, 2009. Claims should be submitted using NDC codes that will be provided in a forthcoming Vaccine Program Amendment from CIGNA. Reimbursement will be in accordance with a fee schedule that includes total payment for the vaccine and/or administration fee.

A CIGNA document for pharmacies, "Important Vaccine Coverage Information for State of Tennessee Pharmacy Plan Participants," posted on the TPA website at www.tnpharm.org/MembersOnly/Immunization/TN_employee_vaccine_coverage_pharmacy_communication.pdf, includes: a list of codes for vaccines and associated administration costs that are covered with zero copay as of October 1; instructions for returning the Vaccine Program Amendment when received from CIGNA; what to do if the Amendment is not received; how to participate in the CIGNA Pharmacy Retail Network; and sample CIGNA ID cards carried by State of Tennessee pharmacy plan participants covered for these benefits.

The processing information above pertains only to claims for seasonal flu, H1N1 and pneumococcal vaccines given to State of Tennessee employees covered by CIGNA.

Tennessee Pharmacists Association 615.256.3023 615.255.3528 Fax tpa@tnpharm.org www.tnpharm.org



PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHARMACY WITH THE RESOURCES TO STAY COMPETITIVE

