

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

JSM/TDL-09398, 08-19-09

---



**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 20, 2009

**FROM:** Director, Provider Billing Group  
Center for Medicare Management

Director, Medicare Contractor Management Group  
Center for Medicare Management

**SUBJECT:** Notification to Contractors to be Aware of Possible Workload Increase  
Due to Earlier Vaccination Schedule for Seasonal Influenza Virus  
Vaccinations

**TO:** All Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Carriers, and Part A and Part B Medicare  
Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)

For the upcoming influenza season, Medicare beneficiaries may be getting vaccinated against seasonal influenza as soon as vaccines become available at their doctor's offices and in their communities (this may be as early as August for some). This earlier-than-usual seasonal flu activity may facilitate preparations for H1N1 vaccinations. In light of this, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would like to make Medicare contractors aware that they may experience an increased workload of seasonal influenza virus vaccine claims earlier in the 2009-2010 influenza season.

Currently, CMS directs contractors to edit claims, in order to identify more than one influenza virus vaccine given during a 12-month period. As vaccinations for the 2009-2010 influenza season may be given earlier than usual, contractors may experience a greater volume of claims that receive this edit. In order to mitigate the effects of the edit, contractors may want to make adjustments to the period they use to identify the influenza virus "season." In any event, claims editing shall only suspend claims to ensure medical necessity. Multiple vaccines within prescribed time frames should not be automatically denied.

**NOTE: MEDICARE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTORS (MACs)**

**A/B MAC Contract Numbers**

Jurisdiction 1 ~ HHSM-500-2008-M0002Z

Jurisdiction 3 ~ HHSM-500-2006-M0005Z

Jurisdiction 4 ~ HHSM-500-2007-M0001Z  
 Jurisdiction 5 ~ HHSM-500-2007-M0002Z  
 Jurisdiction 9 ~ HHSM-500-2008-M0008Z  
 Jurisdiction 10~HHSM-500-2009-M0004Z  
 Jurisdiction 12~HHSM-500-2008-M0001Z  
 Jurisdiction 13~HHSM-500-2008-M0004Z  
 Jurisdiction 14~HHSM-500-2009-M0002Z

**This Joint Signature Memorandum is being issued to you as technical direction under your MAC contract and has been approved by your Project Officer. This technical direction is not construed as a change or intent to change the scope of work under the contract and is to be acted upon only if sufficient funds are available. In this regard, your attention is directed to the clause of the General Provisions of the contract entitled Limitation of Cost, FAR 52.232-20. If the Contractor considers anything contained herein to be outside of the current scope of the contract, or contrary to any of its terms or conditions, the Contractor shall immediately notify the Contracting Officer in writing as to the specific discrepancies and any proposed corrective action.**

Should you require further technical clarification, you may contact your Project Officer. Contractual questions should be directed to your CMS Contracting Officer. Please copy the Project Officer and Contracting Officer on all electronic and/or written correspondence in relation to this technical direction letter.

If you are a FI and have any questions, please contact Bill Ruiz on (410) 786-9283. If you are a carrier and have questions, please contact Leslie Trazzi on (410) 786-7544.

/s/

/s/

Stewart H. Streimer                      Karen Jackson

**cc: (JSM/TDL-09398 has been approved by the MAC Project Officers)**

Paul O'Donnell, Noridian Administrative Services  
 Karla Thormodson, Noridian Administrative Services  
 Scott Manning, TrailBlazer Health Enterprises  
 Rob Solomon, TrailBlazer Health Enterprises  
 Kris Martin, Wisconsin Physicians Service Health Insurance Corporation  
 Frances Dye, Wisconsin Physicians Service Health Insurance Corporation  
 Mike Barlow, Palmetto GBA  
 Larry Leslie, Palmetto GBA  
 David Vaughan, Highmark Medicare Services, Inc.  
 Beth Dum, Highmark Medicare Services, Inc.  
 Scott Kimbell, National Government Services, Inc  
 Stacie Amburn, National Government Services, Inc  
 Lamar James, First Coast Service Options, Inc.

Jorge Gomez, First Coast Service Options, Inc.  
Robert Harrington, National Heritage Insurance Company  
Dorothy W. Pines, National Heritage Insurance Company  
Scott Shelton, Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators  
Fred Schlich, Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators  
All RAs

Nanette Foster Reilly, Consortium Administrator for Financial Management and  
Fee-for-Service Operations

Kathy Markman, OAGM

Linda Hook, OAGM

Lyandra Emmanuel, OAGM

David Wetherson, OAGM

James Wilkerson, OAGM

Cathy Baldwin, OAGM

Brenda Clark, OAGM

BJ Erbe, OAGM

Jimmie Curtis, OAGM

Holly Lane, OAGM

John Webster, OAGM

James T. VanderDonck, OAGM

Melanie Jones, OAGM

Darrell Bachman, OAGM

Tina Honey, OAGM

Alice Calabro, OAGM

Marybeth Jason, CMM/MCMG

Steven Smetak, CMM/MCMG

Virginia Adams, CMM/MCMG

James Massa, CMM/MCMG

James Throne, CMM/MCMG

Linda Hepperle, CMM/MCMG

Torris Smith, CMM/MCMG

Pam Bragg, CMM/MCMG

Ed Lain, CMM/MCMG

Martin Furman, CMM/MCMG

Pat Williams, CMM/MCMG

Larry Young, CMM/MCMG

Jody Kurtenbach, CMM/MCMG