



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

September 3, 2009

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: Update on 2009 Novel Influenza A(H1N1) Vaccination and Extending
Deadline to Pre-register as a Pandemic Vaccination Provider**

Dear Hawai'i Vaccination Provider,

We have been in contact with various major insurance providers in Hawai'i directly and through the Hawai'i Association of Health Plans to verify whether providers may expect coverage of an administration fee for 2009 novel H1N1 vaccination. The table below is provided for your information.

Insurer/Payer	Will reimburse 2009 H1N1 vaccine administration fee	Additional comments
AlohaCare	pending response	http://www.alohacarehawaii.org/ Members and Providers on Oahu : (808) 973-1650 Members and Providers on neighbor islands: 1-800-434-1002
HMAA (Hawai'i Medical Insurance Association)	pending response	http://www.hmaa.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=showHome http://www.hmaa.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=showProvidersFD Members and Providers: (808) 941-4622
HMSA (Hawai'i Medical Service Association)	Yes	Coverage will be provided for the administration of H1N1 vaccine by private providers to members according to published ACIP recommendations.
Kaiser Permanente of Hawai'i	Yes	
MDX Hawai'i (Medical Data Exchange)	Yes	
UHA (University Health Alliance)	Yes	
UHC (United HealthCare)	Yes	Refer to official press release on payer's website: http://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/newsroom/news.aspx?id=71555861-bc9c-4ad5-b8ad-2b4c5adaed58
Medicare	Yes, per CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)	Refer to CMS websites for specific information and guidance: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles/downloads/SE0920.pdf
Medicaid/Med-Quest	Yes, per CMS	Further details forthcoming from CMS directly to providers. Per Med-Quest: Under Fee-For-Service (FFS), providers should bill vaccine code (90655-900658 for split virus, 90660 for live intranasal, 90663 for pandemic formulation) with Med-Quest Fiscal Agent to be reimbursed administration fee. For FFS Medicaid, vaccine administration fee does not apply to pharmacists administering vaccinations.

Contact information for insurers with pending responses is provided for your convenience. If an insurer is

not listed above or you have specific questions regarding administration fee coverage for the insurers listed, we advise you to contact the insurer directly to obtain specific pandemic vaccine coverage information. Providers may refer to <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/362/vaccine-codes.pdf> and <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/stds/cpt.htm> regarding the pandemic vaccine CPT and administration codes for billing purposes. Please remember that all 2009 novel H1N1 vaccine doses, needles, syringes, alcohol swabs, and sharps containers will be provided by the federal government at no cost to providers. Therefore, providers may not charge patients or their insurers for vaccines or related supplies.

The overall objective of this pandemic vaccination campaign is to vaccinate as many people who want to be vaccinated as possible. Although 2 doses may likely be required to ensure complete vaccination (clinical trials data pending), do not reserve second doses. It is expected that, with time, there will be sufficient doses available to provide second doses when needed. Designated pandemic vaccination providers will only be expected to vaccinate their own patients, not necessarily any others. Please note that healthcare providers who do not wish to pre-register and be a pandemic vaccination provider are advised to contact the Healthcare Association of Hawaii facility, with which they are affiliated and/or within which they are located, for vaccination of healthcare personnel in their practices.¹

Given the updated information above and communications with providers, we are **extending the deadline to pre-register to be a pandemic vaccination provider to September 18, 2009**. Providers may either pre-register online at <http://h1n1vax.doh.hawaii.gov> or complete and fax the form accompanying this advisory to (808) 586-8347.

As a reminder, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended the following groups to be the initial targets for novel H1N1 vaccination (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>):

- Pregnant women;
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age;
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age; and,
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

If you have questions about the process for 2009 novel H1N1 vaccine distribution in Hawai'i, please send inquiries to h1n1vax@doh.hawaii.gov, or, if you do not have email access, you may contact Lisa Mendez, Immunization Branch Chief, at (808) 586-8300.

We appreciate the partnership of the medical community in preventing all influenza infections and protecting the health of the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist
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¹ Please refer to the August 15, 2009 Medical Advisory for details of the Hawai'i Department of Health overall plans for pandemic vaccine distribution (http://hawaii.gov/health/about/healthalerts/MedAdvisory_NovelH1N1VaxPlans_14Aug09.pdf).