



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER

Influenza Activity Spotlights

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Issue 3

Professional Medical Organizations Please disseminate widely to all of your members.

1. Everyone should be aware that Medicare has updated their fee schedule to reimburse at 95% of the 07-08 season AWP as published in RedBook for the four injectable influenza vaccine codes. An earlier press release mistakenly reported that the reimbursement for 90657 and 90658 was remaining the same as last year. The reimbursement rates are:

90655 - 0.25mL syringe Preservative free \$16.11
90656 - 0.50mL syringe or vial Preservative-free \$17.37
90657 - 0.25mL p-containing \$6.61
90658 - 0.50mL p-containing \$13.22

To view the CMS rates, go to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a_2007aspfiles.asp#TopOfPage

2. On September 24, the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy launched its new collection of peer-reviewed materials aimed at strengthening public health preparedness for pandemic influenza – Promising Practices: Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Tools – www.pandemicpractices.org Attached is the press release for the project launch and a [fill-in-the-blank email alert](#) that organizations can send to their local contacts. Please feel free to contact Amy Becker, Project Coordinator (612-624-2752 or becke336@umn.edu), if you have any questions.
3. CDC and the Summit will begin weekly communications/update conference calls for interested Summit partners. These calls will be every Wednesday at 3 PM Eastern, beginning Wednesday October 3rd, 2007. If you have any information that you would like to share, please email it to myself and to Alan Janssen (axj3@CDC.GOV). We expect the call to differ in length depending on what news there is but should not last more than an hour. The call in information is as follows: Toll Free: **866-421-9575**; Participant Passcode: **8222501**.
4. The CDC has produced a VodCast (and an accompanying PodCast) targeted to healthcare providers, featuring Bill Atkinson and Larry Pickering, discussing the complexities of influenza vaccine supply and distribution. Please share this widely with all physicians and other healthcare workers who may have lingering questions about the distribution of influenza vaccine. To view, go to <http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=6678>
5. The NFID's National Influenza Press Conference (co-sponsored by the Summit) was held on September 19th with much success. The final press release is [attached](#). Nearly 60 media outlets were represented on-site or via teleconference and Web cast, including the Associated Press,

ABC Radio, Bloomberg News, CBS, CNN, NBC and Reuters, among others. Please find [attached](#) for your reference a full list of attendees. You may also view a sample of media coverage resulting from the event at www.preventinfluenza.org/media.asp In particular, the participation of the AARP is a great step forward.

6. The latest *MMWR* with influenza surveillance information is also [attached](#).
7. HIDA has a website dedicated to providing information regarding influenza vaccine distribution. It is at <http://www.flusupplynews.com>
8. Once again, the Summit's website is actively updated to reflect the latest in influenza news at www.preventinfluenza.org