



October 1, 2009

Dear FCE Client,

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce that the Plan now covers the administration of the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine for active, covered employees and their covered dependents. The decision to cover H1N1 vaccine administration is based on formal recommendations announced by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

The federal government is working to make the H1N1 vaccine available in October. Since it takes time to produce and test the new vaccine, there may not be enough vaccine right away for everyone. Groups identified as "high risk" will receive priority. These include:

- Pregnant women;
- Parents and caregivers of infants under 6 months old ;
- People 6 months to 24 years old;
- Health care workers/emergency personnel;
- People ages 25 through 64 with certain chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

After the high-risk groups, the CDC recommends H1N1 vaccinations for healthy adults between the ages of 25-64. As the vaccine supply increases to meet the demand among these younger age groups, seniors should be offered the vaccine.

The federal government is providing the H1N1 vaccine at no cost; however, providers in traditional settings (e.g., doctor's office, ambulatory clinics, hospitals, and health care facilities) may charge for office visits and administration of the H1N1 flu shot.

In order to avoid out-of-pocket costs (office visit copayments and/or deductibles), Plan members are encouraged to get their H1N1 flu shots at public (e.g., state, municipal) clinics where no administration fee is charged.

Members should rely on their personal physicians and/or public health agencies for information about the availability of the vaccine across the country.

This benefit is added as an exception to the terms of the Plan, which otherwise remain in force. If you have any questions, please contact your FCE account manager.

Sincerely,

FCE Benefits