Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid
To: Pharmacies, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

New Reimbursement Policies for Influenza Immunizations Administered by Pharmacy Providers

This *ForwardHealth Update* describes new policies for influenza immunizations administered by pharmacy providers to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members.

New Reimbursement Policies for Influenza Immunizations

Effective for dates of service on and after September 1, 2011, ForwardHealth has updated its reimbursement policies for influenza immunizations administered by pharmacy providers. This policy change is in response to 2011 Wisconsin Act 32, which lowered the age of patients to whom pharmacists could administer vaccines from 18 years and older to 6 years and older.

Influenza Vaccines Provided to Children

Pharmacy providers may obtain influenza vaccines at no cost to provide to members between 6 years and 18 years of age through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The federal VFC Program was created to provide vaccines to eligible children through enrolled public and private providers. The VFC Program is part of a national approach to improve immunization services and immunization levels.

Pharmacy providers can obtain the influenza vaccine at no cost through the VFC Program; therefore, ForwardHealth reimburses only the administration fee for influenza immunizations provided to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members between 6 years and 18 years of age. ForwardHealth's current reimbursement for pharmacy administration of influenza immunizations is $15.00.

In order to receive vaccines at no cost, providers are required to enroll in the VFC Program. For enrollment information, refer to the Wisconsin Immunization Program Web site at *www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/vfc.htm*.

Note: To receive vaccines through the VFC Program for the annual influenza season, providers are required to be enrolled in the VFC Program and place orders no later than February of that year. Pharmacy providers not currently enrolled in the VFC Program will be unable to obtain influenza vaccine for the 2011-2012 influenza season. In the interim, pharmacy providers may administer influenza vaccine from their private stock to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members between 6 years and 18 years of age. However, ForwardHealth will continue to only reimburse the $15.00 administration fee.

Pharmacy providers are encouraged to enroll in the VFC Program now so they can receive influenza vaccine for the 2012-2013 influenza season. To begin the enrollment process, refer to the Wisconsin Immunization Program Web site at *www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/vfc.htm*.

Department of Health Services

Influenza Vaccines Provided to Adults

For influenza vaccines administered to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members 19 years of age or older, pharmacy providers should use vaccines from their private stock. When providing influenza vaccine to members 19 years of age or older, ForwardHealth reimburses pharmacy providers for both the vaccine and the administration of the vaccine.

Tracking Influenza Immunizations in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry

Pharmacy providers are strongly encouraged to enter administered influenza immunizations into the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). For more information about the WIR, refer to the Wisconsin Immunization Program WIR Web site at *www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/WIR.htm*.

Other Pharmacy-Administered Vaccines

ForwardHealth will issue a future *ForwardHealth Update* regarding reimbursement and coverage policies for other vaccines that pharmacy providers may administer to children as a result of 2011 Wisconsin Act 32.

Claim Submission

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus fee-for-service will reimburse pharmacy providers for influenza immunization services for both children and adult members, even if the member is enrolled in a state-contracted managed care organization. This exception applies to pharmacy providers only.

Pharmacy providers may submit claims for influenza immunization services for both children and adult members via the following:

- The 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.
- The 837 Health Care Claim: Professional electronic transaction.
- Direct Data Entry on the ForwardHealth Portal.
- Provider Electronic Solutions claims submission software.

Pharmacy providers may not submit claims for influenza immunization services using the Point-of-Sale system.

Pharmacy providers are required to indicate the *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT) procedure code of the actual vaccine administered, not the administration code, on claims for all influenza immunization services. Pharmacy providers should not separately bill the administration code.

The following are currently allowable CPT procedure codes for pharmacy providers for influenza immunization services:

- 90656 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, when administered to individuals 3 years of age and older, for intramuscular use).
- 90658 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, when administered to individuals 3 years of age and older, for intramuscular use).
- 90660 (Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use).

Pharmacy providers may not submit claims for influenza immunization services using National Drug Codes.

Note: Allowable procedure codes for influenza immunization services may change or be revised; therefore, providers are encouraged to refer to the service-specific interactive maximum allowable fee schedules on the ForwardHealth Portal at *www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/Max%20Fee%20Home/tabid/77/Default.aspx* for the most current list.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at *www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/*.

P-1250