

Number: Med 147	Date: September 22, 2009	Page: 1 of 1
Subject: Eligibility criteria for seasonal influenza immunization	Reference: Med 97	

To: all physicians and billing staff

Alberta Health and Wellness has expanded its annual provincial seasonal influenza immunization program. Beginning in October 2009, all eligible Albertans six months of age and older will be offered a free seasonal influenza vaccine. Immunization can be obtained through public health clinics, some physician offices and pharmacists.

When a physician (or nurse under the physician's supervision) administers the seasonal influenza vaccine to a patient who is over six months of age, this is considered an insured service and may be billed to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP).

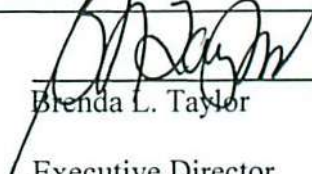
- When an eligible patient attends the physician's office for the **sole purpose** of obtaining an insured vaccine provided by the nurse, the only health service code to be billed is 13.59A (intramuscular or subcutaneous injections).
- If the physician provides a visit service in addition to the injection, the appropriate visit code may be claimed.

The following immunization services **may not be billed** to the AHCIP:

- Immunization services provided in the physician's office to non-eligible Albertans who do not meet the criteria for free-of-charge seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Immunization services requested by patients for travel purposes or required to satisfy a third party (e.g., private insurance, employer).

For more information on seasonal influenza immunization, contact your local public health services office. You can also contact Health Link Alberta at:

Edmonton: 780-408-5465
 Calgary: 403-943-5465
 Rest of Alberta: 1-866-408-5465
 Website: www.healthlinkalberta.ca

Contact: Health Care Insurance Plan Administration Branch	Approval:  Brenda L. Taylor
Telephone: Local 780-422-1600 Toll free 310-0000	Position: Executive Director Health Care Insurance Plan Administration Branch
Fax: 780-422-3552	