

mcp newsletter

October 20, 2021

21-10

TO: ALL FEE-FOR-SERVICE PHYSICIANS

RE: TEMPORARY INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION FEE CODE

The Department of Health and Community Services will be temporarily reactivating the influenza immunization fee code below effective October 25, 2021 to June 30, 2022. For more information on influenza immunization, physicians are encouraged to visit <https://www.timefortheshot.ca/resources/>.

**54650 Influenza immunization; visit fee and/or fee code 54000
not payable in addition 17.16**

Billing Requirements for Influenza Immunization:

- 1) Billing rules when a visit is for **immunization(s) only**:
 - (a) visit for influenza immunization only– claim one unit of fee code 54650;
 - (b) visit for influenza immunization and COVID-19 immunization– claim one unit of 54661 (COVID-19 immunization) and one unit of 54656;
 - (c) visit for influenza immunization and pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 (Pneu-P-23) immunization of target population– claim one unit of 54650 and one unit of 54656.

Billing rules for a **visit for assessment and immunization(s)**:

- (d) visit for assessment plus influenza immunization – claim visit fee only;
 - (e) visit for assessment plus influenza immunization plus COVID-19 immunization – claim visit fee and one unit of fee code 54662 (COVID-19 immunization add-on to office visit at 10.00);
 - (f) visit for assessment plus influenza immunization plus Pneu-P-23 immunization of target population– claim visit fee plus one unit of fee code 54656.
- 2) As per MCP Medical Payment Schedule Preamble sections 5.2, 5.6.1(b) and 5.6.1(d), the billing physician must be physically present at the site where the influenza immunization(s) is administered.

- 3) Premiums cannot be billed with fee code 54650.

Documentation Requirements for Physicians Providing Influenza Immunization:

- 1) Each time an influenza vaccination is administered, it **must** be documented.

For Med Access users: a standardized documentation template is available within Med Access and must be used for billing purposes.

For non-Med Access users: an EMR “light” solution has been created by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI). Documentation and training videos on how to use this solution will be made available and support will be provided by NLCHI. Please email info@edocsnl.ca for access to EMR light.

If a physician is unable to use EMR or EMR light, paper documentation can be used. A *Seasonal Influenza Immunization Consent and Record of Immunization Form* is available at <https://www.timefortheshot.ca/resources/>. Please note that the online Consent Form is a fillable pdf. You can view the form using Internet Explorer. If you are using another browser, you can download the file and view it in Adobe Reader.

Completed *Seasonal Influenza Immunization Consent and Record of Immunization Forms* should be batched and submitted biweekly to NLCHI:

Influenza Vaccination Clinic Forms
70 O’Leary Avenue
St. John’s, NL A1B 2C7

Batches may be transferred to NLCHI via courier service at no charge or alternatively, by in-person drop-off. The custodian of personal health information must ensure that this transfer of information is in compliance with the **Personal Health Information Act**.

To arrange courier service at no cost to the physician, please contact Susan Peach at susan.peach@nlchi.nl.ca or (709) 752-6131.

- 2) If a visit for assessment is billed with the influenza immunization, the record of service for that visit must meet the minimum requirements for the applicable visit billed as stated in the MCP Medical Payment Schedule preamble. Documentation of the influenza vaccination is also required as above in 1).

- 3) If the influenza immunization is provided at the same time as a COVID-19 immunization, both immunizations must be documented separately.

Contacting patients to remind them of the availability of the influenza immunization will not be viewed by MCP as solicitation.

For more information on billing for COVID-19 immunization, please see <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/21-03-Temporary-COVID-19-Immunization-Fee-Codes-FINAL.pdf>.

Questions relating to the content of this newsletter should be directed to Dr. Colleen Crowther, Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1557 or by email at colleencrowther@gov.nl.ca.