

## mcp newsletter

October 17, 2022

22-14

**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 for the 2022 to 2023 flu season, October 17, 2022 to June 30, 2023. For more information on influenza immunization, physicians are encouraged to visit <https://www.timefortheshot.ca/resources/>.

Med Access users are advised to hold any billings for fee code 54650 (Influenza immunization) until the fee code is active within Med Access. An EMR newsletter will advise eDOCSNL users when this code is active within the EMR.

**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 (“each additional injection”);
    - Please be advised that these two vaccines cannot be given simultaneously to children six months to under five years of age. This group must have an interval of two weeks between immunizations.
  - 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.
2. Billing rules for a **visit for assessment and immunization(s)**:
  - a) visit for assessment plus influenza immunization – claim visit fee only;
  - b) visit for assessment, and both influenza immunization and COVID-19 immunization – claim visit fee and one unit of fee code 54662 (COVID-19 immunization add-on to office visit at \$10.00);
    - Please be advised that these two vaccines cannot be given simultaneously to children six months to under five years of age. This group must have an interval of two weeks between immunizations.

- c) visit for assessment, and both influenza immunization and Pneu-P-23 immunization of target population – claim visit fee plus one unit of fee code 54656.
- d) 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.
- e) 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). Education on how to use this solution will be made available and support will be provided by NLCHI. Please email [info@edocsnl.ca](mailto:info@edocsnl.ca) for further information.

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. If you encounter difficulty in accessing the form, 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](mailto: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 is not viewed by MCP as solicitation.

For more information on billing COVID-19 immunization, please see <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/21-03-Temporary-COVID-19-Immunization-Fee-Codes-FINAL.pdf>. Please be advised that an updated newsletter regarding COVID-19 immunization will be posted next week at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/mcp/providers/#4> and distributed by email to fee-for-service physicians. Please note that the effective billing dates for COVID vaccination have been extended to include this season. Billing rates and rules for COVID-19 immunization fee codes 54661 and 54662 will remain unchanged.

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 <a href="mailto:ColleenCrowther@gov.nl.ca">ColleenCrowther@gov.nl.ca</a> .
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