

*October 2009*

## 2009 Annual Flu Vaccine Clinic



As part of our commitment to quality care within our community Hinsdale Physicians Healthcare, in collaboration with Dominick's Pharmacy, held private flu clinics for our HPH members at Adventist Bolingbrook, LaGrange, and Hinsdale Hospitals during the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>. The event was successful as over 600 HPH members were vaccinated. Copies of vaccination record will be mailed to Primary Care Physicians for their records.

### HMO Benefits for Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

- Per HMO Member Certificate, immunizations are a covered benefit that is limited to those in particular risk groups.
- Payment for seasonal flu vaccine is \$30 (CPT code 90658). \$15 is included in this amount to address administration fee. Administration (CPT Code 90471) is included in your capitation.
- If a member goes on their own to a provider outside HPH for a flu shot, it is understood that it is the member's own expense.
- If the seasonal flu vaccine is not available within your office, (based on medical necessity), members should be referred to a provider within HPH who has vaccine. HPH will pay any PCP or Specialist within the HPH network for the cost of the vaccine.
- If a PCP anticipates that they will be getting more vaccine later in the season, it could be appropriate to have most members wait until the vaccine arrives.
- The CDC continues to report there will be an adequate supply of seasonal influenza vaccine. Seasonal influenza vaccine can be administered well into November and beyond. However, it might not be advisable to have the highest risk members wait for vaccine if it is available from another provider.
- Please do not write a referral for a member to any provider outside of HPH network.

## H1N1 – Flu Vaccine Billing Code

Physician Offices are reminded that a member should not be charged a co-pay when receiving the H1N1 flu vaccine. The HMO's are aware that the vaccine is being supplied to physician offices at no cost. Physicians should submit a claim for one unit of G9141 for each administration of the H1N1 vaccine along with the administration CPT code. Administration will be included in your capitation. Feel free to contact Frances Guerrero, Associate Director with any questions or concerns.

### Information is Available for Providers

- According to the CDC, "Providers should contact distributors and local vendors about remaining supply."
- CDC provides information on the supply of vaccine at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/vaxsupply.htm>
- Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System: <http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/>

### Information is Available for Members

- Members can obtain additional information about the flu for themselves and their families at <http://www.flu.gov/>

## BCBS Wellness and Prevention Project

Requests went out to PCP offices in September for the 2009 Wellness and Prevention Project. This is a retrospective study looking for documentation in 2007 and 2008 of assessment **AND** patient counseling with regard to smoking, exercise, nutrition and the use of alcohol. If you have not already submitted requested documentation, your Quality Nurse needs it as soon as possible.

Based on documentation submitted this year, we need your assistance **NOW** to begin using the enclosed **Wellness Assessment** for all of your BCBS HMO patients, as they may be in next year's projects. This form is meant to be a tool to help you to maximize your outcomes in the Wellness and Prevention Project, as well as the Cardiovascular and Diabetes projects which also require documentation regarding smoking status and counseling. Again, please call Mary Sosnowski, RN or Kristin Glavin, RN, Quality Nurses if you have questions at (708) 432-1642.