

DATE: November 23, 2020

TO: IHS & 638 Facilities

FROM: AHCCCS: Division of Fee for Service Management

SUBJECT: Pharmacy AIR Reimbursement for the Flu Vaccine Administration

In our efforts to ensure AHCCCS members receive the flu vaccination, the agency is making an exception to the currently allowable one pharmacy All Inclusive Rate (AIR) per day per member due to the extraordinary pandemic environment we are operating in today. Effective November 23, 2020 and throughout the remainder of the flu season, AHCCCS will temporarily allow IHS/638 pharmacies to be reimbursed a second pharmacy AIR reimbursement through the PBM specifically for the pharmacy administration of the flu vaccination. When it has been determined that the flu season is coming to an end, the AIR reimbursement will return to one pharmacy AIR per day.

When pharmacy staff are adjudicating multiple prescription claims for a member on the same date of service, of which, one is for the flu vaccine, please remember to adjudicate the flu vaccine claim after the first AIR has been paid for a non-flu vaccine claim. If the pharmacy is only submitting one claim and it is for the flu vaccine, the claim will adjudicate for the AIR rate.

AHCCCS will provide advance notification to IHS and 638 pharmacy providers at the end of the flu season detailing the specific end date that the PBM will no longer accept the 2nd AIR for the flu vaccine. This date will be consistent with public health guidance.

Per Ch. 4 of the IHS/638 Tribal Provider Billing Manual: "Up to 5 AIR claims may be billed per member, per day, and each individual AIR claim is for a visit that is a separate and distinct service."

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/Downloads/IHS-TribalManual/IHS-Chap04GenBillRules.pdf>

Please Note- AHCCCS is not increasing the five daily AIR limit but rather allowing pharmacies to be reimbursed for two of the five daily AIR payments (instead of one) for administration of the flu vaccine, when another pharmacy service is provided on the same day.

We are grateful for all of the services that your staffs' provide to our shared members.

Thank you.