

***Flu Shot Reminder!***

Flu Season is upon us! Begin now to take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to talk with your patients about the flu virus and their risks for complications associated with the flu. Encourage them to get their flu shot. It's their best defense against combating the flu this season. *(Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)* And don't forget, health care professionals need to protect themselves also. **Get Your Flu Shot. – Not the Flu.** Remember - Influenza vaccination is a covered Part B benefit. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of flu vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professions, please go to [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu\\_products.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf) on the CMS website.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare provides coverage for flu, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. All adults 65 and older should get flu and pneumococcal shots. People with Medicare who are under 65 but have chronic illness, including heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or end-stage renal disease should get a flu shot. People at medium to high risk for hepatitis B should get hepatitis B shots. CMS needs your help to ensure that people with Medicare take full advantage of these vital preventive benefits. You can help by talking with your Medicare patients about their risk for these vaccine-preventable diseases covered by Medicare and the steps they can take to help reduce their risk of contracting these diseases, including getting vaccinated.

For more information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and a list of related educational resources, please visit CMS' Medicare Learning Network Preventive Services Educational Products web page ([http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35\\_PreventiveServices.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp)) on the CMS website.