

# Bulletin



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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bulletin Number<br><b>4375</b>                                      | Date<br><b>October 29, 2001</b> | Direct inquiries to<br><br><b>Ministry of Health<br/>Processing Office</b><br><br>(address below) |
| Distribution<br><b>Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories</b> |                                 |                                                                                                   |

## Subject    **Influenza Vaccination - Insured Physician Services**

Influenza vaccination is an insured service under the ***Schedule of Benefits*** for physician services.

### **Fee-for-Service Claims**

On April 1, 2001, the requirement that influenza immunization was insured only for people who were eligible to receive publicly funded influenza vaccine was removed. See [Bulletin 4367](#). The fee codes for the administration of influenza vaccine are

|      |                                      |        |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| G590 | Influenza immunization - with visit  | \$3.70 |
| G591 | Influenza immunization – sole reason | \$8.40 |

When influenza immunization is the sole service provided during the patient encounter, G591 is payable. The fee for G591 includes any evaluation of the patient with regard to the patient receiving the vaccine. G590 is payable with a visit when the reason for the visit is not related to the flu vaccine. It is inappropriate to claim Active Immunization codes (G538 and G539) for administration of influenza immunization.

### **Requirements for Delegation**

For payment purposes, the physician must personally administer the vaccine or delegate the procedure in accordance with the rules for delegated procedures i.e.

- the vaccine is administered by a person who is an employee of the physician; and
- the person is under the direct supervision of the physician; and
  - the physician is physically present in the office or clinic at which the delegate is administering the vaccine to ensure that the procedure is being performed competently; and
  - the physician is immediately available at all times to approve, modify or otherwise intervene in the procedure as required in the best interest of the patient.

For complete information about physician payment for delegated procedures, see the Schedule of Benefits, General Preamble, B.10, Delegated Procedure, page xxv.

In addition, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario standards for delegating a controlled act apply when administration of the vaccine is delegated to a person who is not authorized to do so by the ***Regulated Health Professions Act***. For further information about delegating a controlled act, refer to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario policy statement ***The Delegation of Controlled Acts*** dated November 1999.

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#### Office locations

|                                                                                 |                                                                               |                                                              |                                                                                         |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Barrie</b><br>30 Poyntz St.<br>L4M 3P2                                       | <b>Hamilton</b><br>119 King St. W<br>P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A<br>L8N 4C8         | <b>Kenora</b><br>220-808 Robertson St.<br>P9N 1X9            | <b>Kingston</b><br>1055 Princess St.<br>P.O. Box 9000<br>K7L 5A9                        | <b>Kitchener</b><br>1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2<br>N2A 3Z8                              |
| <b>London</b><br>217 York St., 5th Floor<br>P.O. Box 5700 Terminal A<br>N6A 1B7 | <b>Mississauga</b><br>201 City Centre Dr.<br>P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A<br>L5A 3M1 | <b>North Bay</b><br>101-447 McKeown St.<br>P1B 9S9           | <b>Oshawa</b><br>Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419<br>King St. W.<br>P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4 | <b>Ottawa</b><br>Fuller Building<br>75 Albert Street<br>K1P 5Y9                       |
| <b>Owen Sound</b><br>981 2nd Avenue E.<br>N4K 2H5                               | <b>Peterborough</b><br>550 Lansdowne St. W.<br>K9J 8J8                        | <b>St. Catharines</b><br>59 Church St 3rd Floor<br>L2R 3C3   | <b>Sarnia</b><br>452 Christina St. N.<br>N7T 5W4                                        | <b>Sault Ste. Marie</b><br>Roberta Bondar Place<br>70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100<br>P6A 6V4 |
| <b>Sudbury</b><br>199 Larch St.,<br>Suite 801<br>P3E 5R1                        | <b>Thunder Bay</b><br>435 James St. S. ,<br>Suite 113<br>P7E 6T1              | <b>Timmins</b><br>38 Pine St. N., Ste. 110<br>P4N 6K6        | <b>Toronto</b><br>2195 Yonge St.<br>P.O Box 1700 Stn. A<br>M5W 1G9                      | <b>Windsor</b><br>1427 Ouellette Ave.<br>N8X 1K1                                      |
|                                                                                 |                                                                               | <b>Head Office</b><br>P.O. Box 48<br>Kingston, ON<br>K7L 5J3 |                                                                                         |                                                                                       |

## Common Elements

Provision of the premises, equipment, supplies and personnel for the common elements of the service are included in the fee payable for the service. Any charge to the patient is extra-billing and subject to action under the **Health Insurance Act** and the **Health Care Accessibility Act**. For additional information regarding the common elements of insured services, refer to the Schedule General Preamble, Section B.1. Refer to the note below regarding administration of privately obtained vaccine.

## Diagnostic Code

The Public Health Branch will be evaluating the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine. Therefore, physicians are directed to enter diagnostic code 487 in the diagnostic code field on the item record of the claim for all claims related to the diagnosis and treatment of influenza and its complications.

## Publicly Funded Vaccine

All Ontarians are eligible to receive publicly funded influenza vaccine. However, the Public Health Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care can release the publicly-funded vaccine in stages and/or direct physicians to administer the available supply to different population groups at different times in order to give priority to people with the highest risk of contracting influenza.

## Privately Obtained Vaccine

Physicians may choose to purchase a private supply of the influenza vaccine to accommodate patient convenience. In this situation, administration of the vaccine remains insured. The physician can charge the patient for the vaccine in accordance with the **Health Insurance Act**, Regulation 552, section 24(4). However, physicians should advise patients of the availability of publicly funded vaccine which they are eligible to receive at no cost. Physicians should also be familiar with provisions under the **Medicine Act** applicable to the dispensing and sale of drugs.

## Inquiries

- Inquiries from physicians regarding fee-for-service claims submissions should be directed to the physician's local OHIP claims processing office.
- Inquiries from public agencies and facilities should be directed to the local Public Health Unit.

- Related Public Health Branch Bulletins are available on the web at : [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/professionals/flu\\_bul/flubul\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/professionals/flu_bul/flubul_mn.html)

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