

mcp newsletter

October 16, 2024

24-13

TO: ALL FEE-FOR-SERVICE PHYSICIANS

RE: TEMPORARY INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION FEE CODE

The influenza immunization fee code is temporarily available for the 2024 to 2025 flu season. For more information on influenza immunization, physicians are encouraged to visit [Time For The Shot - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador](#).

54650	Influenza immunization; visit fee and/or fee code 54000 not payable in addition.....	17.16
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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”);
 - c) visit for **influenza immunization and other insured immunizations or injections** – claim one unit of 54650 and the applicable units of 54656.
 - d) For further clarity, only one immunization fee code can be claimed per visit regardless of the number of immunizations provided in that visit. If the COVID-19 immunization is provided alone or at the same time as other immunizations, the COVID-19 immunization code (54661) should be billed. All others should be billed as 54656 (“each additional injection”).
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);
 - c) visit for **assessment, and influenza and other insured immunization(s) or injection(s)** – claim visit fee plus the eligible units of fee code 54656.
3. As per MCP Medical Payment Schedule Preamble sections 5.2 and 5.6, the billing physician must be physically present at the site where the influenza immunization(s) is administered.

4. 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 NL Health Services-Digital Health [formerly 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 NL Health Services-Digital Health. Please email info@edocsnl.ca for further information.

If a physician is unable to use Med Access or EMR “light”, paper documentation can be used. A *Seasonal Influenza Immunization Consent and Record of Immunization Form* is available at [Time For The Shot - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador](#).

Completed paper *Seasonal Influenza Immunization Consent and Record of Immunization Forms* should be batched and submitted biweekly to NL Services-Digital Health at:

Influenza Vaccination Clinic Forms
70 O’Leary Avenue
St. John’s, NL A1B 2C7

Batches of completed forms may be transferred to NL Health Services-Digital Health 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 Dawn King at dawnn.king@nlchi.nl.ca.

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 other insured injections or immunizations, these services must be documented separately.

Contacting patients to remind them of the availability of the influenza immunization is not viewed by MCP as solicitation.

Questions relating to the content of this newsletter should be directed to the
AssistantMedicalDirector@gov.nl.ca.or (709) 758-1557.