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Date: October 19, 2009
To: All Participating Providers
From: Jason A. Helgerson
Wisconsin Medicaid Director
Subject: H1N1 Benefit for the Uninsured Status Update

Dear Participating Provider:

Thank you for completing a Memorandum of Agreement last spring to participate in the H1N1 benefit for the uninsured. Due to the resurgence of H1N1 influenza this fall, the Department plans to implement the benefit effective November 2, 2009.

This memo provides instructions for site validation, updates on providing evaluation and treatment to the uninsured, information on H1N1 vaccine administration, and updated public messaging and billing information.

Site Validation

Please review and validate the attached list of sites the Department currently has on file for each provider. These sites were identified by each provider last spring on Attachment 1 of the Agreement as locations where uninsured patients with influenza-like illness could access the initial visit for flu-related evaluation and treatment.

Email the Department **by October 26** at DHSuninsured@dhs.wisconsin.gov to revise information for any participating site or to add or remove a site.

Reimbursement for Evaluation and Treatment

Effective November 2, per the Agreement, providers can bill the Department for the initial flu-related evaluation and treatment of uninsured patients presenting with influenza-like illness at the participating sites identified on the attached list. The Department will reimburse providers a bundled rate of \$48 for each initial evaluation and treatment visit.

Per the Agreement, the bundled rate is payment in full for all flu-related services potentially provided during the initial ambulatory visit regardless of the number of rendering providers, including, but not limited to, the office visit, lab and radiology services, intravenous hydration, and distribution of antiviral medications from state and federal stockpiles if clinically appropriate. If multiple rendering providers render services included in the bundled rate to the

same patient during the same initial ambulatory visit, only the Participating Provider shall bill the Department for the bundled rate. The Participating Provider shall then appropriately reimburse all other providers who rendered services, such as radiology providers or independent laboratories.

Per the Agreement, the Participating Provider shall not balance bill nor collect any cost-sharing amount from the uninsured patient or anyone legally responsible for the patient.

Reimbursement for Vaccine Administration

The Department expects most uninsured individuals to have access to the H1N1 vaccine through vaccination efforts organized by their local public health departments. However, to maximize vaccine availability, effective November 2, the Department will reimburse providers \$15 for administration of the H1N1 vaccine to uninsured individuals who did not also receive flu-related evaluation and treatment at the same visit. The Roster Billing Form has been revised to reflect this addition.

The \$15 vaccine administration fee does not cover the cost of the H1N1 vaccine; the H1N1 vaccine is being made available at no cost from the federal government. Refer to <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/> for information on ordering the H1N1 vaccine. Providers should follow all Public Health guidelines regarding administration of the vaccine.

Public Messaging of the Benefit

The Department will publically announce the H1N1 benefit for the uninsured but will not directly identify the providers' participating sites as locations at which the uninsured can receive flu treatment and vaccination. Instead, the Department will instruct the public to contact their local public health department or the 2-1-1 public information system for more information about the H1N1 benefit for the uninsured.

Local public health departments and the 2-1-1 information system will:

- Instruct symptomatic uninsured individuals to contact a participating site to determine if it is appropriate to come in for evaluation and treatment.
- Refer asymptomatic uninsured individuals to a participating site to receive the H1N1 vaccine **only if** the individual is unable to receive the vaccine through their local public health department. The Department expects most uninsured individuals to have access to the H1N1 vaccine through their local public health department. Thus, **uninsured individuals would be referred to a participating site only in the event they cannot access the vaccine through their local public health department.**

If providers do not wish to receive referrals to vaccinate the uninsured at some or all of their participating sites identified on the attached list, they must email the Department at DHSuninsured@dhs.wisconsin.gov by October 26. Indicate "Request to Not Accept Vaccination Referrals" in the subject line of the email. In the body of the email, identify the site(s) at which you do not wish to receive referrals to vaccinate the uninsured. **If providers do not email the Department by October 26, the Department will assume the providers are willing to receive vaccination referrals at their participating sites.** Providers who decide not to accept referrals will still be able to bill the \$15 administration fee to administer the H1N1 vaccine to any uninsured individual at any of their participating sites.

Billing the Department

The Department's Roster Billing Form has been revised to allow providers to bill for both evaluation and treatment and the vaccine administration fee. The revised Form and Instructions are attached and are also available at <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/>. While the Form can be submitted either on paper or electronically, the Department strongly encourages electronic submission to facilitate processing.

Benefit Funding

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has made funds available to states through the Public Health Emergency Response Grant. In addition to supporting local public health, these funds will be used to support the H1N1 benefit for the uninsured.

If you have any additional questions about the H1N1 benefit for the uninsured, please email DHSuninsured@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Again, thank you for your ongoing commitment to this effort to serve the uninsured.