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UnitedHealthcare to Cover Administration of H1N1 Vaccine for Its Members

H1N1 Facts and Information

As you may have read, all regions of the U.S. have now reported positive cases of the H1N1 flu. The latest comments from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest the situation remains fluid.

For more information about swine flu symptoms, treatment and prevention, see [H1N1 Flu \(Swine Flu\) Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Coverage for H1N1 Flu Vaccine

UnitedHealthcare will provide coverage for the administration of the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine for all members covered by its insured plans. We intend to process all self-funded member claims as a covered service unless clients explicitly direct us otherwise.

If your plan does not currently cover the administration of the vaccine, and your employer notifies us of their intent not to cover the vaccine in the future, UnitedHealthcare will reimburse the cost of the administration of the vaccine. The federal government has said that the vaccine will be provided at no cost to health care providers.

UnitedHealthcare will coordinate its efforts with federal and state authorities to ensure the widest possible administration of the vaccine in an effort to mitigate the potential consequences of an H1N1 pandemic.

Based on its analysis of current situation, The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended prioritizing the following population segments to receive the vaccine:

- pregnant women
- caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- health care and emergency medical services personnel
- children and young adults from 6 months through 24 years old
- persons aged 25 through 64 years who have underlying health conditions that might increase their risk for flu-related complications

Other population segments will be able to receive the vaccine, as it is made available.

Prescription Coverage

Antiviral therapy is an important part of the prevention and treatment of H1N1 flu. For groups that have a UnitedHealthcare prescription benefit plan managed through UnitedHealth Pharmaceutical Solutions, Tamiflu® (oseltamir) and Relenza® (zanamivir) are covered drugs. The drugs are also covered under Legacy PacifiCare and UnitedHealthcare prescription benefit plans administered by Prescription Solutions, which have lifted all prior authorization requirements until further notice.

Business Continuation Preparedness

We want to reassure clients that if this situation escalates, UnitedHealthcare is fully prepared to initiate our business continuation program, which is designed to minimize any type of service disruption.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

To help answer common questions, we have developed an [H1N1 member FAQ](#). The FAQ is updated frequently with the latest guidance from the CDC.

For the most up-to-date information, visit the [CDC Web site](#).