



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2-10-2006

SUBJECT: PN 7 Influenza Vaccination Performance Measure – Status of Public Reporting

FROM: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Approximately 85 million doses of injectible influenza vaccine were made available to the United States for the 2005/2006 flu season. However, a delay in distribution by a few vendors created localized shortages affecting the ability of some hospitals to vaccinate inpatients during the first part of the 2005-2006 flu season. Therefore, data for the 4th quarter 2005, resulting from the CMS/Joint Commission performance measure PN 7, Influenza Vaccination, will not be used for public reporting on either the Joint Commission's Quality Check or CMS' Hospital Compare website. This same data will also not be used to determine pay-for performance incentive payments for the third year of the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration with Premier Inc. This data will, however, continue to be used in QIO quality improvement activities, although it will not impact the 8th SOW QIO evaluation. It should be noted that PN 7 is not one of the 10 measures that prospective payment hospitals were required to report for fiscal year 2006 annual payment update.

At this time, because the influenza vaccine is widely available from distributors, there are no plans to activate the new allowable value 6, Vaccine not available to hospital due to shortage of vaccine, for the data element *Influenza Vaccination Status*. In the event that a hospital does not have vaccine available, the response "None of the above/Not documented/UTD" should be selected. This selection will result in the case not being captured in the measure numerator.

We understand that the data generated from PN 7 for the first portion of this flu season will most likely not be reflective of common practice processes. It is important to continue to provide late-season vaccination as substantial amounts of vaccine are often left at the end of the influenza season, and many persons who should or want to receive influenza vaccine remain unvaccinated. To improve vaccine coverage, influenza vaccine should continue to be offered through out the influenza season as long as vaccine supplies are available. Although the timing of influenza activity may vary by region, vaccine administered after November is likely to be beneficial in the majority of influenza seasons.ⁱ

It is anticipated that public reporting of data for PN 7 will occur for the first time in late 2006 on the CMS Hospital Compare website. These data reported will be comprised of the measure information collected for the first quarter of 2006.

ⁱ CDC. Prevention and control of influenza recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR. 2005 / 54(RR08);1-40. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5408a1.htm>.