

Program Memorandum Carriers

Department of Health and Human
Services (DHHS)

HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

Transmittal B-00-62

Date: NOVEMBER 9, 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1398

SUBJECT: Promoting Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations

The 2000 Flu/Pneumonia season will begin soon. This year will present more challenges than past years because of the delay in the flu vaccine shipments to some parts of the country. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is urging all health care providers who provide flu vaccine to their patients to consider ways to encourage their high-risk patients receive vaccinations if a severe shortfall were to occur.

Annual vaccination against flu is the best way to reduce hospitalizations and deaths from flu complications. These infections result in approximately 20,000 deaths and 110,000 hospitalizations each year in the United States. To accomplish our initiative, HCFA requires your assistance in publishing the following messages to beneficiaries on their Explanation of Benefits or Medicare Summary Notices for the time limit indicated.

From November 6, 2000 THRU November 16, 2000:

- (E) You are at high risk for complications from the flu and it is very important that you get vaccinated. Please contact your local health care provider for the flu vaccine.
- (S) Usted está an alto riesgo para complicaciones de la influenza y es muy importante que usted se vacune. Favor de comunicarse con su proveedor del cuidado de la salud para la vacuna contra la influenza.

From November 17, 2000 THRU December 31, 2000:

- (E) If you have not received your flu vaccine it is not too late. Please contact your health care provider about getting the flu vaccine.
- (S) Si usted no ha recibido su vacuna contra la influenza no es demasiado tarde. Favor de comunicarse consu proveedor del cuidado de la salud sobre recibir la vacuna contra la influenza.

The *effective date* for this Program Memorandum (PM) is November 9, 2000.

The *implementation date* for this PM is October 1, 2000.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after October 1, 2001.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Burrier on 410-786-4649.