

Individual Product News

2010 Highmark Producer Portal Enhancements to Improve Sales Process!

Coming late January 2010!

New Producer Portal Enhancements will make it easier for your customers to apply on-line and enable you to track your applications.

On-line features that you've been waiting for will soon be here! Enhancements scheduled for late January will make it easier than ever to do business with Highmark. These enhancements include the following capabilities:

- Your customers will be able to submit their own medically underwritten applications which will link back to you as the writing producer.
- You will be able to check the status of applications submitted on-line by your customers in real time on the Saved Quotes & Applications page of the Highmark Producer Portal.

Look for more detailed information about these Producer Portal enhancements in late January!

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Health News

H1N1 - Answers to Your Flu Vaccine Questions

Everyday it seems there's a different message regarding the swine flu and the H1N1 vaccine. On top of that, having two influenzas and vaccines to deal with has created quite a lot of confusion.

Highmark's coverage policy for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine is very clear: to make it as convenient as possible for people to get vaccinated, claims will be paid at 100% of the Highmark allowance, regardless of the network status of the care provider. That means, in addition to physicians and hospitals, non-traditional entities such as schools, pharmacies and public clinics may also administer the vaccine. Deductibles and/or coinsurance will not apply. The seasonal vaccine will continue to be covered at the same benefits level as all other vaccinations. (Self-insured groups may cover the administration of the H1N1 vaccine the same as the seasonal flu vaccine, or opt out of coverage for administration of H1N1 altogether.)

As you know, the seasonal flu vaccine is a key element of preventive care that can save your clients lost work time and costs. The H1N1 is no exception. While it is each employee's decision whether or not to get this vaccine, and some populations-- including children, pregnant women, health care providers, caregivers of children under six months, and those under 65 with certain medical conditions-- run a higher risk for the swine flu, it is medically appropriate and responsible for companies to cover the administration of the vaccine.

The federal government is supplying the H1N1 vaccine itself along with necessary supplies to each state's Department of Health at no cost. The vaccine is currently being distributed by each state's Department of Health to physicians, hospitals, schools and pharmacies. In Pennsylvania, high-risk individuals are receiving the vaccine first and as more vaccine is obtained, it will be made available to lower-risk individuals.

To access the most current information on both flus and vaccinations, log onto www.flu.gov.

If you have any questions concerning this issue of Producer News, please contact your Highmark client manager.

Sincerely,



Reginald E. Brown
Director, Producer Affairs, West