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H1N1 & Seasonal Flu Updates (NYS Insurance Coverage; CDC Updates & Guidance)

1. Governor Paterson Announces Health Insurers Must Cover Children's Flu Shots - http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/press_0910091.html

2. Attached please find the following:

- [CMS article dated 9/10/09 explaining Medicare coverage and reimbursement rules for H1N1 Vaccine](#)
- [CDC MMWR Update 9/10/09: Influenza Activity in the United States April – August 2009](#)
- [CDC Interim Guidance for Reporting Influenza – Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths for the 2009-2020 Season](#)
- [CDC Updated Key Points 9/10/09 - Summarizes CDC MMWR Update and Interim Guidance above](#)

3. CDC has updated its guidance on antiviral treatment/prophylaxis for H1N1. Some bullet points of interest to hospitals:

- Treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir is recommended for all persons with suspected or confirmed influenza requiring hospitalization.
- Treatment should not wait for laboratory confirmation of influenza because laboratory testing can delay treatment and because a negative rapid test for influenza does not rule out influenza. The sensitivity of rapid tests can range from 10 % to 70%. Information on the use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs) can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm.
- Testing for 2009 H1N1 influenza infection with real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) should be prioritized for persons with

- suspected or confirmed influenza requiring hospitalization and based on guidelines from local and state health departments.
- Antiviral chemoprophylaxis generally should be reserved for persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications who have had contact with someone likely to have been infected with influenza.
 - Based on global experience to date, 2009 H1N1 influenza viruses likely will be the most common influenza viruses among those circulating in the coming season, particularly those causing influenza among younger age groups.

Dosing recommendations are contained in the CDC document, which can be accessed at <http://www.flu.gov/vaccine/antiviralguidance.html>. There is a FAQ document at <http://www.flu.gov/vaccine/antiviralfaq.html>.

4. Early results suggest 1 dose of H1N1 vaccine may be protective - <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/sep1009vaccine.html>
5. Response after one dose of a Monovalent Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Vaccine — Preliminary Report - <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMoa0907413>
6. Providers having trouble getting seasonal flu vaccine - <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/sep0909summit.html>