



BlueCross BlueShield
of Kansas City

An Independent Licensee of the
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

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September 2010

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**2010 Flu Shots:
Cost Plus Group Executive Letter**

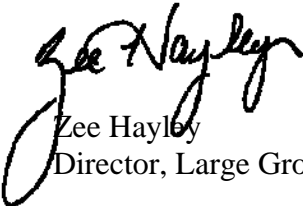
Dear Group Executive,

To help our employer groups counter the potential effects of a bad flu season, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (Blue KC) will pay **100 percent** of the allowable charge for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for your Blue KC members if they receive administration from an in-network provider. This year's vaccine includes protection against the most likely flu strains, including H1N1.

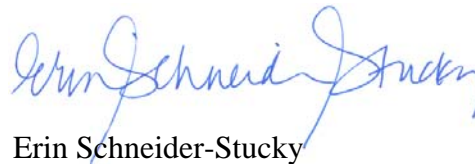
In addition, Blue KC will not count these vaccines and administration costs toward any routine calendar year maximum when provided by an in-network provider. Vaccines and administration provided by out-of-network providers are subject to the out-of-network benefit level and other terms, limits, and conditions of the contract. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

We recommend that you offer the flu vaccination benefit to your employees; however, as one of our Cost Plus groups, you have the option to not provide these higher-level benefits. **We will proceed with the benefits outlined above unless you notify your Blue KC marketing representative by Friday, September 17, that you want to opt out of these benefits for your employees.**

Sincerely,



Zee Hayley
Director, Large Group Sales



Erin Schneider-Stucky
Director, Large Group Sales

Enclosure



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2010 Flu Shots: Flu Vaccine Informative

2010 Flu Vaccine Information

- The CDC recommends that everyone age 6 months of age and older get vaccinated against the flu. Visit www.flu.gov for more information on who is at greatest risk.
- The 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine includes protection against the most likely flu strains, including H1N1.
- Expanded coverage for flu shots and improved network access make getting a flu vaccine easy by using the traditional method of payment – providing a valid Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (Blue KC) member ID card to a network provider.
- Blue KC wants to make it as easy as possible for members to stay healthy this flu season. To help our employer groups and members counter the potential effects of a bad flu season, ***Blue KC will cover 100% of the allowable charge for the flu vaccine and its administration when received from an in-network provider.***
 - **If the provider bills an office visit or other medical service in addition to the flu shot, members are responsible for any deductible, coinsurance, or copayment that applies to the office visit or medical service.**
 - **Members may want to contact their provider to understand if the provider will bill an office visit before making arrangements for a flu shot.**
- Important notes about flu shot coverage:
 - This benefit level applies to fully insured clients, including individual products and cost plus clients that have not opted out of program. Benefit levels do not apply to ASO accounts.
 - Most primary care physicians and pediatrician practices offer flu shots. Members should contact their provider for flu shot availability.
 - Blue KC recommends members call any retail clinic prior to going in for a flu vaccine to make sure the clinic has the vaccine available and does not have any restrictions, such as age, etc.
 - Vaccines administered by an out-of-network provider are covered at the out-of-network benefit level, under the member's preventive care benefit.
- Employer flu clinics
 - Employers who plan to hold employee flu clinics should contact their Blue KC marketing representative to ensure services are properly covered.
- Precautions against the flu can and should be taken, primarily:
 - Washing hands frequently with warm water and soap.
 - Covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing – cough or sneeze into a sleeve.
 - Infected individuals should avoid contact with people to keep from spreading the illness.