

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Executives
AHCA/NCAL Leadership and Members

FROM: Janice Zalen, Sr. Dir. of Special Programs

SUBJECT: **H1N1 Update No. 23—CMS Web Site and Policy; and Providing Vaccine**

DATE: September 1, 2009

Providing Vaccine to Employees

Facilities interested in providing H1N1 vaccine to their employees can go to the following CDC link that provides state/jurisdiction vaccine contact information: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/statecontacts.htm.

CMS Releases Policy for Influenza Pandemic and other Emergencies

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has begun to issue emergency policies and procedures that may be used in the event of a pandemic flu. These policies and procedures are found on the CMS web page at www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/10_PandemicFlu.asp, which is designed to provide up-to-date information for Medicare and Medicaid providers.

The CMS pandemic flu site includes a question and answer (Q&A) document entitled, *Medicare Fee-For Service Emergency and Disaster-Related Policies and Procedures That May Be Implemented Without Sec. 1135 Waivers*. This document includes Q&As relating to the H1N1 influenza pandemic, followed by Q&As relating to all emergencies (that also may apply to H1N1). Q&As under Section T of the document are specific to skilled nursing facilities.

The CMS web page also includes a link to an *MLN Matters* article, *Influenza Pandemic Emergency – The Medicare Program Prepares*, which provides links to “Change Requests” or “Transmittals” for Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) so that they are prepared to waive certain Medicare requirements. A Joint Signature Memoranda (JSM) is required to implement the Change Requests and Transmittals and none have been issued to date.