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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

August 19, 2010

California Pharmacies and Physicians:

In response to the significantly increased numbers of reported pertussis cases in California, including eight infant deaths, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued recommendations for broader use of the pertussis booster vaccine, Tdap, including immunization of persons over the age of 64 years, particularly those who have close contact with young infants.

CDPH received clarification on coverage of the pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding coverage of Tdap immunization for beneficiaries. Tdap vaccine is a Part D covered drug for use in patients 65 years of age and older. Tdap vaccine may be obtained by Medicare Part D beneficiaries from a network pharmacy without out-of-pocket costs by the beneficiary. Tdap may also be provided in a network provider's office; however, this would require the beneficiary to pay for the vaccine costs up front and then be reimbursed by their Medicare Part D plan. The beneficiary should contact their Medicare Part D plan in advance for detailed instructions on reimbursement for Tdap vaccination.

Please see attached letter from CMS to all Medicare Part D Plan Sponsors and Medicare Advantage Organizations for additional details.

Sincerely,

John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Branch Chief
California Department of Public Health
Division of Communicable Diseases
Center of Infectious Diseases
Immunization Branch

Attachment