



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

October 1, 2010

RE: Medicare Coverage of Pertussis Booster Immunization: Updated Information

Dear California Health Care Providers:

As pertussis is widespread in California, CDPH continues to recommend tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for those who haven't yet received it, including persons older than 64 years, particularly those with close contact to infants.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has further clarified that:

- Tdap vaccine is a Medicare Part D covered drug for patients 65 years of age and older.
- Beneficiaries may be charged a co-payment or cost share for Tdap vaccination that can vary by Medicare plan.
- In addition to a prescription, some Medicare Part D plans may require providers to submit prior authorization forms which request justification of medical necessity for the Tdap administration (e.g., "patient cares for a young infant", "patient at risk of prolonged pertussis").
- When prior authorization has not been obtained, pharmacies can still immunize and charge a fee to the patient, who could then submit a claim for reimbursement to the Medicare Part D plan.

Health care providers and Medicare Part D beneficiaries should contact the specific Medicare Part D plan for detailed instructions on coverage, prior authorization, and reimbursement for Tdap vaccination. Additional information is available in the letter from CMS to all Medicare Part D Plan Sponsors and Medicare Advantage Organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Talarico, D.O.'.

John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Chief