

Getting the Flu shot in our Office

By Updated 9-30-2008

FLU SHOTS ARE HERE

We will start giving flu shots on Monday October 6 to ANYONE who desires to be immunized. We will even give shots to your family members who are not patients (people with Medicare must be an existing patient and make an appointment to get a flu shot). We will be giving flu shots during regular allergy shot hours (posted on this web site). Please note we will be closed several days this fall. We are offering flu shots for the discounted price of \$30.00. Those who want us to file their insurance must make an appointment as outlined below. We encourage patients who want a flu shot appointment, especially those the Medicare, to call NOW to schedule a flu shot appointment. HMO's that cover flu shots generally cover them only at the primary doctor. Longer lines usually occur in the afternoon.

To our knowledge, there are no confirmed cases of the flu in the United States, as of September. We recommend flu shots now for all people with chronic respiratory conditions, including asthma and emphysema, all health care workers, and all pregnant women and all people over 65.

If you are an existing patient and you want us to file your insurance (many plans covered the flu shot in 2007) you will need to make a "flu shot appointment" to get the shot. You will have a short office visit and pay your normal copay as well as getting the shot. (If it is subsequently not covered you will also be responsible for the regular cost of the flu shot plus an administration fee of \$10.00-so check with your insurance carrier first)

If you are an existing patient and do not want us to file your insurance you should "drop-in" during our regular shot hours without an appointment and pay for the shot at that time. After the fact we will not be able to go back and file insurance for the flu shot.

If you are not an existing patient we can offer you the flu shot on a cash basis. This means you can pay for the shot and come in during regular shot hours to receive your vaccination. We will not be able to file any insurance for those who are not existing patients. Unfortunately, Medicare regulations do not allow us to accept payment for a covered benefit outside of your insurance, thus Medicare beneficiaries are not able to take advantage of this offer. We suggest Medicare beneficiaries get the shot at your primary doctor's office or at a local pharmacy or grocery store.

If you are here for a regular appointment and want to get the flu shot at your visit, you will pay your regular copay. You can choose to have us file your insurance for the flu shot or you can pay for it at the time of service. If you ask us to file your insurance and it subsequently is not covered you will be billed for the regular cost of the shot plus an administration fee of \$10.00, totaling \$40.00. If you pay for it at the time of your visit, a total of \$30.00, we cannot go back and then file it for you or give you documentation to file it yourself, so be sure of your choice before it is made.

Patients are welcome to get their flu shots from any location that is offering them. We

provide this service as a convenience and for the health of our patients, but we do not offer the cheapest flu shots in town.