

Please circulate to others and file in your *Provider Manual* for future reference.

April 30, 2009

Q&A Regarding Caring for Community Health Group Patients with Swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection

Community Health Group (CHG) has received inquiries related to the H1N1 virus (Swine flu) testing. This document is meant to clarify Community Health Group's expectation regarding treatment and testing of this virus.

Question: Where do I send my CHG patients for testing if I suspect Swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1)?

Answer: Physicians can take a nasopharyngeal sample in the office and place it in an M4 transport media container for pick up by Quest Diagnostics. No prior authorization is needed for this test.

Question: Is it appropriate to send my CHG patients with flu symptoms to the Emergency Room?

Answer: Every effort should be made to treat your CHG patients in your office.

Question: If my CHG patient is diagnosed with the Swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1), do I need a prior authorization for anti-viral medications?

Answer: Yes. The treatment is a covered service with certain guidelines and dosage which needs to be coordinated with our clinical team. For the purposes of treating the suspected Swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1), CHG will follow current CDC guidelines.

Question: If a physician has a concern or specific question, who do they contact?

Answer: CHG's Chief Medical Officer, Edward D. Hutt, M.D.,M.B.A. at (619) 498-6593.

Question: If a clinical (non-physician) staff has a concern or question, who do they contact?

Answer: CHG's Director of Utilization Management Services, Martha Jazo-Bajet, R.N. at (619) 498-6430.