

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Immunization Awareness Month Information for Senior Citizens

August is National Immunization Awareness Month! The Ruby Valley Hospital and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would like to take this opportunity to inform seniors and other Medicare recipients that many important vaccines are covered by Medicare Part B, particularly seasonal influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B immunizations. The CMS describes the Medicare Part B benefits for these preventive immunizations as follows:

- **Seasonal Influenza Immunization:** Medicare covers one seasonal influenza virus vaccine per influenza season; a beneficiary could get more than one seasonal influenza virus vaccination in a 12-month period. Medicare may cover additional influenza vaccinations, if medically necessary.
- **Pneumococcal Immunization:** Medicare generally covers the pneumococcal vaccination once in a lifetime for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare may cover additional vaccinations based on risk or uncertainty of beneficiary pneumococcal vaccination status.
- **Hepatitis B Immunization:** Medicare covers the hepatitis B vaccinations that are reasonable and necessary for the prevention of illness for those individuals who are at high or intermediate risk of contracting hepatitis B virus.

August is a great time to plan ahead and make arrangements for your upcoming immunizations. For web links to additional information about all recommended immunizations, please visit www.rubyvalleyhospital.com. Please contact your healthcare provider to discuss your needs and options.

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Media Contact: Debra McNeill (406) 684-5344
For The Ruby Valley Hospital, Sheridan, Montana