



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 1993

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER
Acting Press Secretary
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RAHALL ANNOUNCES FREE FLU SHOTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) announced that flu shots are available to all Medicare beneficiaries in the 3rd Congressional District of West Virginia, with the cost covered nationwide by Medicare for the first time.

"In most cases this means the vaccinations will be free", Rahall said. This is because beneficiaries will not be charged for the Medicare Part B deductible or for the normal 20 percent coinsurance payments for medical services. Since most physicians accept Medicare approved amounts as full payment for their services, the shots will be free to the beneficiary.

Physicians who do not accept assignment can impose charges in excess of the Medicare rates for the flu shots.

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala says the elderly are especially vulnerable to potentially severe effects of the flu and should receive shots before the flu season hits in late fall. The Public Health Service has reported that more than 10,000 Americans die in many flu seasons, and some years the number of deaths reaches 45,000.

To receive a free leaflet called "Medicare Pays for Flu Shots" Rahall urged beneficiaries in the 3rd Congressional District to call Medicare's toll free hotline, 1-800-638-6833, and ask for information about flu shots.

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SM-
Per note below
changes made -
code is
/jackie/press.flu
TV 2D

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10/1/93

JD

Please make these
changes and give
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PR.

Th [signature]

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(for Congressional Newsletters)

NEW MEDICARE BENEFIT
COVERS FLU SHOTS
FOR ELDERLY

_____ (Member's name) _____ has announced that flu shots are available to all Medicare beneficiaries in the _____ (District or State), with the cost covered nationwide by Medicare for the first time.

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