



Ringling in 2020 with CPT Changes

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It's that time of year again. The American Medical Association has implemented the 2020 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code set. This year we have 394 changes: 248 additions, 71 deletions, and 75 revisions. All changes took effect on January 1.

While the impact to urgent care is minor, several items bear highlighting.

Health Behavior Assessment and Intervention

The codes in the Health Behavior Assessment and Intervention section are used to report services provided to improve a patient's health and wellbeing utilizing psychological and/or psychosocial interventions. Services focus on the assessment and intervention on factors complicating medical conditions and treatments that are physical in nature.

For 2020, the AMA revamped this section by deleting codes 96150 to 96155 and establishing the new codes 96156-96171. The "+" indicates an add-on code.

With the new set of codes comes a fresh set of guidelines to explain the difference between assessment and interventions. *Assessments* include evaluation of the patient's responses to disease, illness or injury, outlook, coping strategies, motivation, and adherence to medical treatment conducted through health-focused clinical interviews, observation, and clinical decision making. *Interventions* include promotion of functional improvement, minimizing psychological and/or psychosocial barriers to recovery, and management of and improved coping with medical conditions with services provided individually, in a group of two or more patients, and/or to the family with or without the patient present.

At least 16 minutes of service are required to report codes 96158, 96164, 96167, and 96170. Evaluation and management



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CPT	Description
96156	Health behavior assessment, or reassessment (ie, health-focused clinical interview, behavioral observations, clinical decision making)
96158	Health behavior intervention, individual, face-to-face; initial 30 minutes
+96159	Health behavior intervention, individual, face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary service)
96164	Health behavior intervention, group (2 or more patients), face-to-face; initial 30 minutes
+96165	Health behavior intervention, group (2 or more patients), face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary service)
96167	Health behavior intervention, family (with the patient present), face-to-face; initial 30 minutes
+96168	Health behavior intervention, family (with the patient present), face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary service)
96170	Health behavior intervention, family (without the patient present), face-to-face; initial 30 minutes
+96171	Health behavior intervention, family (without the patient present), face-to-face; each additional 15 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary service)

services should not be reported by the same provider on the same date.

Revised Codes

When looking at year-end coding changes, it is as important to review revised codes as it is to look at the new or deleted codes. While continued use of the codes may not result in denials, clinics should be aware of changes to the code description to make sure the documentation supports the services reported.

Following are two codes commonly reported in the urgent care setting that have been revised for 2020:

■ **Meningococcal Vaccine - CPT 90734**

The description for code **90734** was revised to make it consistent with the new code **90619** and to distinguish the type of meningococcal vaccine and carrier it describes.

2019 Description

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, serogroups A,C,Y and W-135; quadrivalent (MCV4 or MenACWY), for intramuscular use

2020 Description

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, serogroups A,C,W,Y quadrivalent, diphtheria toxoid carrier (MenACWY-D) or CRM197 carrier (MenACWY-CRM), for intramuscular use

Documentation should include the exact vaccine product administered.

The description for code **90619** is *Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, serogroups A, C, W, Y, quadrivalent, tetanus toxoid carrier (MenACWY-TT), for intramuscular use.*

■ **Complete Acute Abdomen Series - CPT 74022**

The description for code **74022** was revised to define the views included in a complete acute abdomen series. Previously the code did not specify the number of abdominal views included.

2019 Description

Radiologic examination, abdomen; complete acute abdomen series, including supine, erect, and/or decubitus views; single view chest

2020 Description

Radiologic examination, complete acute abdomen series, including **2 or more views of the abdomen (eg, supine, erect, decubitus), and a single view chest**

Documentation should include interpretation of two or more views of the abdomen and a single view of the chest. ■

Crosswalk

2019 Code	For 2020 see...
96150	96156
96151	96158
96152	+96159
96153	96164 +96165
96154	96167 +96168
96155	96170 +96171



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