



To Flu or Not to Flu

■ MONTE SANDLER

It's flu season again and this year patients have two viruses to worry about: COVID-19 and influenza. Now is the time patients will come in to get their flu vaccine and (hopefully) take the flu possibility out of the equation.

Vaccinations are usually billed with two CPT codes: one for the vaccine and one for the administration of the vaccine. If the practice did not pay for the vaccine, only the CPT code for the administration of the vaccine is reported. When the vaccines are supplied by a Vaccine for Children Program (VFC), how the administration of the vaccine is reported will vary by state Medicaid carrier.

There are several codes to report the actual vaccine. To determine the correct code, you need to know the manufacturer and the trade name.

For updates on new vaccines that receive FDA approval during the flu season, visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Pricing webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing>.

Other items to share with your billing team are the dosage, age group, and National Drug Code (NDC) so the claims can be submitted correctly.

The administration is reported with HCPCS G0008, (Administration of influenza virus vaccine) for Medicare. For other payers, use CPT 90471 for an injection. If administration is by an intranasal or oral route, report CPT 90473. For pediatric patients, if injections include counseling for patients up to and including age 18, see CPT code 90460.

All vaccines are reported with diagnosis code Z23 (Encounter for immunization).

Avoid These Common Billing Errors

- Do not report CPT 96372 for administration of the vaccine. This code is used to report a diagnostic injection.
- If multiple vaccines are given on the same date, code for each administration. Use add-on codes to report these addi-



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CPT Code	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Medicare Allowable
90653	Seqirus	Fluad	\$59.53
90662	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent	\$60.98
90672	MedImmune	FluMist Quadrivalent	\$26.88
90674	Seqirus	Flucelvax Quadrivalent (Preservative Free)	\$29.23
90682	Sanofi Pasteur	Flublok Quadrivalent	\$60.98
90685	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone Quadrivalent 0.25 mL (Preservative Free)	\$21.13
	Seqirus	Afluria Quadrivalent 0.25 mL (Preservative Free)	
90686	GlaxoSmithKline	Fluarix Quadrivalent (Preservative Free) Flulaval Quadrivalent (Preservative Free)	\$19.58
	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone Quadrivalent (Preservative Free)	
	Seqirus	Afluria Quadrivalent (Preservative Free)	
90687	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone Quadrivalent 0.25 mL	\$9.58
	Seqirus	Afluria Quadrivalent 0.25 mL	
90688	Sanofi Pasteur	Fluzone Quadrivalent	\$19.17
	Seqirus	Afluria Quadrivalent	
90694	Seqirus	Fluad Quadrivalent	\$61.00
90756	Seqirus	Flucelvax Quadrivalent	\$27.70

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tional services: 90472, 90474, and 90461.

- When reporting administration codes 90460 and 90461, be sure to document counseling. Also, do not report for patients over 18 years of age.
- Report the correct NDC for each product purchased. This number is unique with segments that identify the labeler or vendor, product, and trade package. It could change during the season.
- If the type of product purchased changes, be sure to verify you are continuing to report the correct CPT code and the correct administration code, if it is performed via a different route.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates there is enough vaccine to go around. For more information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>. Stay healthy! ■