

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Clip and Save: Influenza Coding Made Easy with These Handy Tips

As flu season drags on, you will need to be quick on your toes to get your coding right each time your internal medicine specialist or another appropriate health care professional in your practice administers a flu vaccine. If you don't know how to report these injections, your practice will face the risk of denials.

Watch for The Key terms When Reporting Influenza Vaccine

When someone in your practice administers influenza vaccines, you will need to report a code by checking chart documentation for some of these key terms, which will help you zero in on the right code. The key terms that you will need to focus on to choose the right vaccine code include:

- Age of the patient
- Active/Inactivated
- Recombinant or Live Attenuated
- Preservative (thimerosal, Hg) free
- High-dose
- Administration route
- Tri- or quadrivalent.

To ease up on your vaccine coding, you can keep this easy to use chart handy. Take the guesswork out of matching brand name vaccines to the corresponding CPT® code for 2015- 16 flu season.

Table Adapted from <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/vaccines.htm>.

