

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### READER QUESTIONS: Code New Fluarix in 3 Quick Steps

**Question:** Our office is expecting a shipment of the Fluarix TIV influenza vaccine. When a nurse uses this product, what codes should I report?

Illinois Subscriber

**Answer:** Ensure flawless submission of a Fluarix shot by taking these measures:

**Step 1:** To assign the appropriate administration code, check the patient's insurer. For a non-Medicare patient, code injection administration as 90471-90472 (Immunization administration [includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections] ...). Assign 90471 (... one vaccine [single or combination vaccine/toxoid]) when a staff member gives Fluarix as a single or initial vaccine. Alternatively, use +90472 (... each additional vaccine [single or combination vaccine/toxoid] [list separately in addition to code for primary procedure]) when given as an additional vaccine. For a Medicare patient, you would use G0008 (Administration of influenza virus vaccine when no physician fee schedule service on the same day).

**Step 2:** Because Fluarix is preservative-free and adult-only, report the product with 90656 (Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative-free, for use in individuals 3 years and above, for intramuscular use).

**Step 3:** Link both the immunization administration and the product to ICD-9 code V04.81 (Need for prophylactic vaccination and inoculation against other viral diseases; influenza).

Fluarix is a trivalent preservative-free inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) that prevents type A and B influenza. The FDA recently approved the GlaxoSmithKline intramuscular injection for adults 18 years of age and older.

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