

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

CPT 2008: Inoculate Yourself Against Ignorance Of New Vaccine Codes

These new codes are official for January 1, even if they-re not in the book

You-ll have six new vaccination codes starting in January--but only three of them will be in your CPT book.

The **American Medical Association** (AMA) released three new influenza vaccination codes (90661-90663) on July 1, even though they-re not effective until Jan. 1. These codes cover flu vaccines which are derived from cell cultures (90661), split virus (90662) and pandemic formulation (90663).

But the AMA's CPT Editorial Panel approved three other vaccination codes in June--too late to go into the 2008 CPT book. The codes will still take effect in January, but they won't appear in print until the 2009 CPT book. You can see a list online at www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/362/vaccinecodes.pdf.

[One new code, 90650, covers vaccination for human papilloma virus types 16 and 18. Another new code, 90681, covers immunization for attenuated human rotavirus. The third new code, 90696, is for diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, administered to children aged four through six.](#)

Prepare To Use New Category III Codes

You-ll also have some new Category III codes to bill starting in January. These are temporary codes for new technologies, and convincing your carrier to pay for them can be a hassle. But you should still report these codes, because it makes them more likely to become regular Category I codes in the future, say experts.

The new Category III codes for 2008 include:

- **Electrocardiogram, 64 leads or greater** (0178T-0180T). You-ll still use 93000-93010 for a routine electrocardiogram (EKG) with at least 12 leads. But for an EKG with 64 or more leads, you should use 0178T-0180T, which took effect in July 2007 and will appear in the 2008 CPT book.

New code 0178T covers an EKG with graphics and analysis and interpretation and report. You-ll use 0179T for tracing and graphics only, and 0180T for interpretation and report only.

- New code 0181T covers **bilateral air impulse stimulation to determine a corneal hysteresis**. It includes interpretation and report.

- **High-dose electronic brachytherapy**, per fraction (0182T). You can't report this code with a whole host of radiology codes: 77761-77763, 77776-77778, 77781-77784 and 77789.

- **Non-contact, low-frequency, non-thermal ultrasound** (0183T). This includes topical applications, if any, plus wound assessment and instructions for ongoing care.

- Excision of a rectal tumor via **Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgical (TEMS) approach** (0184T). You-ll still use 45160 or 45170 for a non-endoscopic excision of a rectal tumor. You shouldn't use 0183T with 45300-45327 or 69990, the descriptor notes.

- You-ll also have a new code (0185T) for **multivariate analysis** of patient findings with a quantifiable computer probability assessment, including report. You shouldn't report this code with CPT code 99090.



- New code 0186T covers **suprachoroidal delivery** of a pharmacologic agent, and doesn't include the supply of medication.

- Finally, you'll be able to use new code 0187T for **unilateral scanning of computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging** of the anterior segment, including interpretation and report.

Note: New codes 0184T-0187T won't appear in your 2008 CPT book, but they do take effect in January.