Codify
BY AAPC

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: Don't Confuse Vaccine, Therapeutic Injections

Question: I'm having trouble with my Medicare carrier denying our tetanus injections using administration code 90782. What could be the problem?

Nebraska Subscriber

Answer: The problem is you're reporting the wrong code. Instead, you should use vaccine code 90471 (Immunization administration [includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular and jet injections]; one vaccine [single or combination vaccine/toxoid]) for the first injection.

To report each additional injection the internist provides during the same visit, assign +90472 (... each additional vaccine [single or combination vaccine/ toxoid] [list separately in addition to code for primary procedure]).

Remember that you should report 90782 (Therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic injection [specify material injected]; subcutaneous or intramuscular) for injections not otherwise represented by a specific CPT or HCPCS code, such as immunizations or chemotherapy.

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