

Coding Clues



Confused about Implementation Guides?

Physicians can now get assistance with their questions about how to implement standard transactions and codes. A group of “expert volunteers” are available through the website: www.x12n.org/portal.

The web portal will try to bring reason to implementation guides, whose details frustrate physicians trying to comply with the HIPAA code sets and transactions rules. The site can help physicians negotiate or resolve disputes with business associates, partners, clearinghouses and other entities.

Vaccine Code Information

One new vaccine code and revisions to three existing codes became billable as of July 1, 2005. The new code 90714 is for preservative-free Td vaccine. This code 90714 is to be used for the newer preservative-free Td vaccine. Remember that 90718, the existing code for Td vaccine is still in place and should be used for Td vaccine that contains a preservative (such as thimerosal).

The three codes that have been revised are 90680, 90715 and 90713. CPT code 90680 (Rotavirus vaccine) is considered a “revised” code because it has not been used since a previous product was removed from the market in 1988. It has in essence been reactivated to describe the new rotavirus vaccine product. This new product is still pending approval by the FDA.

Significant changes have been made to revise code 90715 (TdaP). The revision is to the definition, which now includes a new version of the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis combination (TdaP). This modification is in support of the greater emphasis on adding the pertussis booster, which is now recommended by AAP and CDC for 11-12 year olds. The new booster is designed to “recharge” immunity provided by routine childhood shots.

The new boosters are available from GlaxoSmithKline as Boostrix and are intended for patients 10-18 years of age; Adacel is from Sanofi Pasteur and is for patients 11-64 years

of age. If children up to age 18 have never received the Td or received it more than five years ago, they should also be given the TdaP booster.

The final revision is to code 90713 (Poliovirus vaccine). The definition now represents the inclusion of intramuscular administration for the injectable polio vaccine. This expands the definition, but does not refer to a new product.