

INFORMATION PAPER

DASG-HCA
19 February 2005

SUBJECT: Consistency & Precision in Coding Medical Encounters After Immunization

1. Purpose. To describe procedures to increase the consistency and precision of coding applied to inpatient and outpatient visits for healthcare for symptoms and conditions that may occur after immunization.

2. Facts.

a. Background. Healthcare researchers depend on military healthcare providers to precisely describe encounters with patients using the codes of the International Classification of Diseases, 9th edition, known as ICD9.

b. Goal. To increase the consistency and precision of analyses of vaccine safety using automated databases, military treatment facilities (MTFs) should help clinicians and medical-record coders find the most precise ICD9 codes to describe a patient's visit. MTFs can encourage precision by distributing and posting lists of codes for common encounters related to immunization.

c. Expected Codes. The attached list describes codes for common or expected symptoms or conditions after immunization. This list is not exhaustive. Always use the most specific code(s) clinically appropriate to the patient seen. When in doubt, consult with the coding specialists in the Patient Administration Division. A complete list of the ICD9 coding system appears at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/icd9/abtcd9.htm.

d. Poisoning. According to the ICD9 system, "poisoning" codes from 960 to 979 exclude adverse effects ["hypersensitivity," "reaction," etc.] of correct substances properly administered. Classify such episodes according to the nature of the specific adverse effect that followed administration of that substance (e.g., a vaccine).

e. E codes. "E" codes are appropriate in specific circumstances. For example, adverse effects of bacterial vaccines properly administered should be coded as E948.8. Use E949 for adverse effects of viral vaccines properly administered.

f. Example. Consider the proper codes to identify a visit to treat injection-site inflammation after immunization. If the patient experiences muscle ache, headache, and swelling of the injection site, enter 729.1, 784.0, 729.81, and 995.2. This will allow visits for similar conditions to be grouped together, enhancing our ability to calculate how often they occur.

3. Revision. Coding conventions vary from time to time. Consult current references.

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Approved by COL Jones

Common Or Expected Symptoms Or Conditions After Immunization
ICD9 Coding System, February 2005

- Anaphylaxis -- 995.0 -- including allergic shock and anaphylactic reaction due to adverse effect of correct medicinal substance properly administered
- Angioedema -- 995.1 -- also called angioneurotic edema
- Dizziness and giddiness -- 780.4 -- including light-headedness, vertigo not otherwise specified (NOS)
- Edema -- 782.3
- Fainting -- 780.2 -- including syncope and collapse, blackout, (near) (pre)syncope, vasovagal attack
- Fever -- 780.6 -- including chills with fever
- Headache -- 784.0
- Infection following infusion, injection, transfusion, or vaccination -- 999.3
- Itching -- 698.9 -- pruritis
- Malaise and fatigue -- 780.7
- Myalgia and myositis, unspecified -- 729.1
- Other general symptoms -- 780.9 -- including chill(s) NOS
- Pain in joint -- 719.4 -- including arthralgia
- Rash and other nonspecific skin eruption -- 782.1 -- including exanthem.
- Skin sensation disturbance -- 782.0 -- including burning or prickling sensation, hyperesthesia, hypoesthesia, numbness, paresthesia, tingling
- Subcutaneous nodules -- 782.2 -- including localized superficial swelling, mass, or lump
- Swelling of limb -- 729.81
- Unspecified adverse effect of drug, medicinal and biological substance (due) to correct medicinal substance properly administered -- 995.2 -- including allergic reaction, hypersensitivity, and idiosyncrasy to correct substance properly administered
- Unspecified erythematous condition -- 695.9 -- including erythema NOS

The following ICD9 codes are specific to smallpox vaccination:

- Adverse effects of correct medicinal substance properly administered, smallpox vaccine -- E949.0
- Encephalitis, postvaccinal -- 323.5
- Generalized vaccinia -- 999.0
- Infection following infusion, injection, transfusion, or vaccination -- 999.3 (such as for inadvertent inoculation)
- Keratitis or keratoconjunctivitis in exanthema -- 370.44
- Keratitis superficial without conjunctivitis -- 370.2