

CODING FOR VACCINATIONS: AN ENDOCRINOLOGIST'S TIP SHEET

CODING FOR VACCINE COUNSELING

When the endocrinologist, physician assistant (PA), or nurse practitioner (NP) discusses the need for a recommended vaccine(s) with the patient during an office visit, the time spent in counseling may be included in the *total time spent by the physician/NP/PA* on the date of service. Code selection may be based on the higher of total time or medical decision-making. ICD-10 code **Z71.85** is appropriate for an encounter for immunization safety counseling in addition to codes for diabetes and other problems addressed at the visit.

Office E/M Total Physician/PA/NP Time on the Date of Encounter with New Patient			
E&M Code	# of total min	MDM	ICD-10
99202	≥15-29	Straightforward	Codes for problems addressed and Z71.85
99203	≥30-44	Low	
99204	≥45-59	Moderate	
99205	≥60-74	High	

Office E/M Total Physician/PA/NP Time on the Date of Encounter with Established Patient			
E&M Code	# of total min	MDM	ICD-10
99212	≥10-19	Straightforward	Codes for problems addressed and Z71.85
99213	≥20-29	Low	
99214	≥30-39	Moderate	
99215	≥40-54	High	

- Consider code selection based on **total time** when vaccine counseling **increases** the total time of an office visit or consultation. Include only time spent by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.
- **Always** document points of discussion, recommendation, referral, *and total time on the date of the visit*.
- Codes for other types of visits (e.g., **Preventive Medicine Counseling and Principal Care Management**) may be available to some practices.

VACCINE AND ADMINISTRATION CODES

Vaccine Codes	Administration Codes	Diagnosis Codes
COVID-19: 91304, 91320, 91322	90480	Link Z23 (encounter for immunization) to each vaccine product and administration code. When reporting an E/M service on the same date, link codes for problems addressed (eg, diabetes) to the E/M code.
Influenza: 90661, 90662, 90653, 90656, 90658, 90673	All others - 90471 - 1st injection 90472 - each add'l injection	
Hepatitis B: 90739, 90746, 90759		
Pneumococcal: 90671, 90732, 90677, 90684		
RZV (Zoster): 90750		
Tdap: 90715		
RSV: 90678, 90679, 90683		

Append modifier **25** (significant, separately identifiable E/M service) to E/M code for service to address medical problems on the same date. Report diagnosis code **Z23** (encounter for immunization) for each service.

Vaccine codes are updated 3 times per year or on a more expedited basis, when necessary. See the most recent changes published by the American Medical Association at ama-assn.org/cpt-cat-i-immunization-codes.

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AAACE members and others using this guidance should make independent judgments and consult with their own coding staff or consultants to ensure they are following the applicable coding rules. Codes and guidelines change, and payers may not adhere to all guidelines. For additional details, see AAACE's Coding Toolkit for Endocrinology Practices for Vaccines for Adults with Diabetes.



WHAT VACCINE DOES AAACE RECOMMEND FOR ADULTS WITH DIABETES

CDC-Recommended Vaccines	When and How Often
Age-appropriate vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All persons should receive according to the CDC schedules
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or more doses per current CDC recommendations and FDA approvals
Flu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All adults, annually
Hepatitis B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults aged 19-59 years Adults aged 60 years and older with risk factors for Hepatitis B 2, 3, or 4 doses depending on vaccine or condition
Pneumococcal - to protect against pneumonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults with diabetes ages ≥ 19 years One or two doses, depending upon the type of vaccine received
RZV (Zoster) - to protect against shingles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All adults ≥ 50 years Adults ≥ 19 years who have weakened immune systems Two doses
Tdap - to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 10 years after first series (may need additional doses during pregnancy or after an injury)
RSV - to protect against respiratory syncytial virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults aged 60 years or older who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease including those with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes

ACIP = Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For information on the most current CDC vaccine recommendations for adults with diabetes, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/adult-schedule-vaccines.html>

