

Payment and Billing

Providing immunizations correctly and safely requires a large amount of time and effort from the provider and the office staff. Therefore, for providers to continue to offer this important public health service it is vitally important that they receive adequate payment for these services. Knowledge of the billing and hence coding rules will assure that providers are paid appropriately.

Providers can bill for the vaccine product and for the costs that are part of the immunization process. Thus there are two fees: a vaccine charge and an administration fee. Included in these costs are such items as: physician work/time, personnel costs, storages costs, insurance costs to cover losses, “wastage” and lost opportunity costs, to name a few. The AAP has published a brief summary of the Business aspects of Vaccines which is included. A listing of codes used for immunizations can be found in the standard CPT Code Book.

In the state of Michigan, there are two ways that vaccines can be paid for. These include commercial insurance, which most vaccines are covered under, and Vaccines for Children (VFC).

The Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) gives childhood vaccines to eligible children and are paid for by the government. Doctors and clinics enroll in VFC and give vaccines to children who qualify. For more information on the program and who is eligible, visit this link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/after_9_VFC_brochure_128629_7.pdf