

Source: (AAPC) American Academy of Professional Coders

<https://www.aapc.com/blog/12458-stick-to-the-facts-on-childhood-immunization-coding/>

Counseling and Non-counseling Codes Can Be Mixed

If counseling is provided for some, but not all, vaccine/toxoid components to be administered, new administration/counseling codes 90460-90461 and carry-over administration codes 90471-90474 may be reported together to accurately reflect the services rendered. For example, if counseling is performed for HPV vaccine but not for an influenza vaccine provided at the same visit, report 90460 for the HPV and 90472 (or 90474, if the second, non-counseled vaccine is administered orally or intranasally) for the influenza vaccine.

Another circumstance might occur if counseling was provided at an earlier visit, the parent has new questions or concerns at the return visit, and the physician or other qualified health care professional is asked to address these concerns. It would be appropriate to report code 90460 at the administration of a series vaccine if counseling is clearly documented during a return visit.

As a complete coding example (including administration and vaccine reporting), consider the following case:

A patient presents for her two-month well-child visit and is vaccinated for DTaP-Hib-IPV (Pentacel), pneumococcal, and rotavirus.

CPT® Descriptor	CPT® Code	Units
Preventive Medicine Service	99391	1
DTaP-Hib-IPV	90698	1
First vaccine component	90460	1
Each additional vaccine component	90461	4
Rotavirus vaccine	90680	1
First vaccine component	90460	1
Pneumococcal vaccine	90670	1
First vaccine component	90460	1

With the discussion of childhood vaccines becoming so much more challenging, use of new codes 90460 and 90461 to adequately report and represent the complexity of these services is very important. It is clear with the increase of preventable illness in children that the role of the vaccines is

still essential to ensuring the health of our communities, and coding these correctly is important to supporting this effort.

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