



March 27, 2023

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Itasca, IL 60143  
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www.aap.org

Re: Investigation of MMR and Varicella Claims Processing

Dear Payer:

I write today on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to urge you to ensure your processing of claims for MMR and Varicella vaccines is accurate. The AAP is a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

In 2000, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code set was designated by the Department of Health and Human Services as the national coding standard under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a CVX (vaccine administered) code set as the HL7 Standard for use in the Immunization Information Systems (see Table). It has come to the attention of the AAP that several payer organizations may be in violation of the HIPAA Administrative Simplification Electronic Data Interchange Standards by changing submitted vaccination CPT codes.

The CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices state that MMR (CPT 90707) and Varicella (CPT 90716) can be given separately or as part of the combination vaccine MMRV (CPT 90710). The schedule footnote states "For dose 1 in children aged 12–47 months, it is recommended to administer MMR and varicella vaccines separately. MMRV may be used if parents or caregivers express a preference."

CPT_Code	CPT_description	CVX Short Description
90707	Measles, mumps and rubella virus vaccine (MMR), live, for subcutaneous use	MMR
90710	Measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine (MMRV), live, for subcutaneous use	MMRV
90716	Varicella virus vaccine (VAR), live, for subcutaneous use	Varicella

In order to maximize immunization rates and allow for pediatricians and families to use shared decision making regarding vaccine schedules, we ask that you check your claims processing systems to affirm that both MMR and Varicella given separately on the same day and alternatively, MMRV, have CPT codes that are recognized, paid appropriately and immunization administration codes processed appropriately according to the AMA's CPT definition of the vaccine product and immunization administration codes.

Thank you for your attention to the matter. We are happy to engage in further conversation by email, phone or web conference as needed. Please reach out to Sunnah Kim at [skim@aap.org](mailto:skim@aap.org).

Sincerely,

Sandy Chung, MD, FAAP  
President

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