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SPECIAL EDITION: October Update

New COVID-19 Vaccine Codes: October Update

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) Editorial Panel (the Panel) has approved new vaccine administration code (0044A) for the administration of a booster dose of the Novavax vaccine product (91304) to address severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease 2019 [COVID-19]) for patients aged 18 years and older. In addition, the age range for the Moderna bivalent booster product (91313) and the Novavax vaccine product (91304) have both been lowered to 12 years and older. This change does not alter the descriptors of the codes for these vaccine products. Code 0044A will become effective upon receiving emergency use authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In order to assist CPT code users in differentiating and appropriately reporting the available vaccine product codes and their affiliated immunization administration codes, the American Medical Association (AMA) established a website (<https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/covid-19-cpt-vaccine-and-immunization-codes>) that features timely updates of the Panel's actions. The last COVID-19 update was in the *CPT[®] Assistant Special Edition: September Update* (2022) in which the Pfizer bivalent booster vaccine product (91312, 91315) and its associated vaccine administration codes (0124A, 0154A), as well as the Moderna bivalent booster vaccine product (91313, 91314) and its associated vaccine administration codes (0134A, 0144A) were discussed.

This issue of *CPT[®] Assistant Special Edition* provides guidance on the appropriate use of the new Novavax vaccine administration code (0044A) for patients aged 18 years and older.

Immunization Administration for Vaccines/Toxoids

- **0041A** Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, recombinant spike protein nanoparticle, saponin-based adjuvant, preservative free, 5 mcg/0.5 mL dosage; first dose
 - **0042A** second dose
 - **0044A** booster dose
- [CPT-PN]► (Report 0041A, 0042A, 0044A for the administration of vaccine 91304)◄

New vaccine administration code 0044A describes the administration of the booster dose for the existing Novavax vaccine product (91304). Code 0044A should be reported with the existing code 91304 as the dosing used for the booster dose is the same as that used for the primary series. Parenthetical notes have been added following the vaccine administration and product codes to clarify the appropriate use of code 0044A.

In addition, it should be noted that the age range for the Moderna bivalent booster product (91313) and the Novavax vaccine product (91304) have both been lowered to 12 years and older. The change to the Novavax vaccine age range is currently for the primary series only (0041A, 0042A). The age range for the booster dose (0044A) is currently 18 years and older. This update does not result in any changes to the code descriptors for these vaccine products. The age ranges will be updated in Appendix Q, which is discussed in this article.

As with previous COVID-19 vaccine administration codes, counseling is included as part of the administration visit and should not be reported separately. The physician or other qualified health care professional (QHP) should exercise clinical judgment to determine whether the administration of the vaccine product is appropriate for a given patient. More information on current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding which patients should receive a COVID-19 vaccine is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>.

To accommodate the new coding structure, Appendix Q was added to the CPT code set. Appendix Q details the vaccine codes, their associated vaccine administration code(s), the vaccine manufacturers and names, the National Drug Code (NDC) labeler product ID, and dosing intervals. Appendix Q was recently re-formatted to also show appropriate age ranges for each vaccine product and the associated vaccine administration codes to assist in providing clarity for the user. The new vaccine administration code discussed in this update will be added to Appendix Q.

Additional details on the new vaccine coding structure and other pertinent information provided in multiple special editions of the *CPT® Assistant* for COVID-19 guidance are available at <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/covid-19-cpt-coding-and-guidance>.

Table 1 is an excerpt from Appendix Q that highlights the new Novavax vaccine administration code, as well as the changes to the age ranges for the Moderna bivalent booster and the Novavax primary vaccine series discussed in this article. Refer to the full text of Appendix Q, which is available at <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/covid-19-immunizations-appendix-q-table.pdf>, to keep abreast of additional changes as they occur.

Table 1 Excerpt from Appendix Q: New Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Code and Age Range Updates

Vaccine Code	Vaccine Administration Code(s)	Patient Age	Vaccine Manufacturer	Vaccine Name
#● 91313 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID]-19) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, bivalent, preservative free, 50 mcg/0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use	● 0134A (Booster)	12 years and older	Moderna, Inc	Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent
#● 91304 Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, recombinant spike protein nanoparticle, saponin-based adjuvant, preservative free, 5 mcg/0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use	● 0041A (1st Dose) ● 0042A (2nd Dose)	12 years and older	Novavax, Inc	Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine
	● 0044A (Booster)	18 years and older		

The following clinical examples and procedural descriptions reflect typical clinical scenarios for which these new codes would be appropriately reported.

Clinical Example (0044A)

A 33-year-old individual who was previously immunized with a primary series seeks booster immunization against SARS-CoV-2 to decrease the risk of contracting this disease, consistent with evidence-supported guidelines. The individual is offered and accepts an intramuscular injection of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for this purpose.

Description of Procedure (0044A)

The physician or other QHP reviews the patient's chart to confirm that vaccination to decrease the risk of COVID-19 is indicated. Counsel the patient on the benefits and risks of vaccination to decrease the risk of COVID-19 and obtain consent. Administer the booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by intramuscular injection in the upper arm. Monitor the patient for any adverse reaction. Update the patient's immunization record (and registry when applicable) to reflect the vaccine administered.

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The *CPT® Assistant Special Edition* information is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date coding information. We continue to make every reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the material presented. However, this publication does not replace the *CPT®* codebook; it serves only as a guide.

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