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SPECIAL EDITION: July Update

New Monkeypox Testing and Vaccine Codes: July Update

In response to the emergent nature of the public health concern surrounding monkeypox, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) Editorial Panel (the Panel) has approved three new codes specific to monkeypox. The Panel approved one code (87593) to report the laboratory diagnostic testing for the orthopoxvirus and two new vaccine product codes (90611, 90622) for the smallpox and monkeypox combined vaccine (JYNNEOS) and the traditional smallpox vaccine (ACAM2000), respectively. The AMA expedited publication of these new codes to the AMA website at <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/orthopoxvirus-and-monkeypox-coding-guidance>. These codes are *effective immediately* for use in reporting the laboratory test for the orthopoxvirus and vaccine administration utilizing these vaccine products. Note that these codes do not appear in the CPT 2022 code set; however, they will be included in the CPT 2023 code set in the Microbiology subsection of the Pathology and Laboratory section and in the Vaccines, Toxoids subsection of the Medicine section, respectively.

This issue of *CPT[®] Assistant Special Edition* introduces and provides guidance on the appropriate use of the new orthopoxvirus testing code (87593) as well as the new vaccine product codes for the JYNNEOS combined smallpox and monkeypox vaccine (90611) and the ACAM2000 smallpox vaccine (90622) along with use of existing vaccine administration codes (90460, 90461, 90471, 90472) that should be utilized with the new vaccine product codes.

Microbiology

- **87593** Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); orthopoxvirus (eg, monkeypox virus, cowpox virus, vaccinia virus), amplified probe technique, each

Reporting code 87593 will help streamline the tracking of and reimbursement for testing services related to monkeypox in the United States. To meet the needs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) safety-monitoring programs and to track the specific testing performed, it is imperative the appropriate code is listed on claim forms. More information regarding monkeypox is available from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>.

Vaccines, Toxoids

- #● **90611** Smallpox and monkeypox vaccine, attenuated vaccinia virus, live, non-replicating, preservative free, 0.5 mL dosage, suspension, for subcutaneous injection

- #● **90622** Vaccinia (smallpox) virus vaccine, live, lyophilized, 0.3 mL dosage, for percutaneous use

Vaccine product code 90611 describes the JYNNEOS combined smallpox and monkeypox vaccine. The JYNNEOS vaccine, also referred to as Imvamune or Imnavex, has been approved by the FDA for use in patients aged 18 years and older and requires the administration of two doses 28 days apart. Use in younger patient populations requires the submission of an application under the expanded access IND. Note that due to the current limited supply of the JYNNEOS vaccine, its use should be prioritized for patients who are at risk for severe adverse events from the ACAM2000 smallpox vaccine or at risk for severe disease from monkeypox (ie, people who are severely immunocompromised, including those with human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]). People who receive the JYNNEOS vaccine are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second vaccine dose is administered.

Vaccine product code 90622 describes the ACAM2000 smallpox vaccine product for patients aged 12 months and older and requires the administration of only one dose. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the smallpox vaccine for use against monkeypox under the expanded access Investigational New Drug (IND) application. The monkeypox virus is closely related to the virus that causes smallpox (both are in the orthopox family of viruses). Thus, the smallpox vaccine can provide some protection against getting monkeypox. ACAM2000 is a live vaccine; therefore, precautions need to be taken as the lesion caused by vaccine administration

may transmit the infection to others if they come into close contact with it. People who receive the ACAM2000 vaccine are considered fully vaccinated 4 weeks after vaccine administration.

Both vaccines are being released from the Strategic National Stockpile and can be obtained by contacting the CDC. Additional information on indications and precautions for use of these two vaccines against monkeypox is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/considerations-for-monkeypox-vaccination.html>.

Existing CPT vaccine administration codes (90460, 90461, 90471, 90472) should be used to report the administration of the vaccine products described by codes 90611 and 90622 depending on the age of the patient and the administration(s) provided during the encounter.

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

Clinical Example (87593)

A 45-year-old male presents with skin lesions, fever, and lymphadenopathy after potential exposure to monkeypox. Swabs of skin lesions are obtained for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing.

Description of Procedure (87593)

DNA is isolated and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is performed for detection of orthopoxvirus genus or member species. Results are reported.

Clinical Example (90611)

A 36-year-old male who is at risk for exposure to an orthopoxvirus (ie, monkeypox virus) presents for vaccination.

Description of Procedure (90611)

The physician or other QHP determines that the orthopoxvirus (ie, monkeypox virus) vaccine is appropriate for this patient and dispenses the vaccine according to the dose scheduled for the orthopoxvirus (ie, monkeypox virus) vaccine.

Clinical Example (90622)

A 36-year-old male who is at risk for exposure to an orthopoxvirus (ie, smallpox virus) presents for vaccination.

Description of Procedure (90622)

The physician or other QHP determines that the orthopoxvirus (ie, smallpox virus) vaccine is appropriate for this patient and dispenses the vaccine according to the dose scheduled for the orthopoxvirus (ie, smallpox virus) vaccine.

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