

Coding for Bee Immunotherapy

The CPT book has two sets of coding options for bee immunotherapy. A set of codes, 95130-95134, combines the injection with professional services for provision of the venom immunotherapy per the number of stinging insects. These codes are not recognized by CMS as payable codes. As a result, these codes are not commonly used, since many private payers follow CMS guidelines for active codes.

The coding recognized by CMS, as well as many other payers for venom immunotherapy, is to separately code the injection(s) from the professional services for the preparation and provision of the stinging insect immunotherapy.

To code in this manner, the CPT codes are:

95115	Professional services for allergen immunotherapy not including provision of allergenic extracts; single injection
95117	2 or more injections
95145	Professional services for the supervision of preparation and provision of antigens for allergen immunotherapy (specific number of doses); single stinging insect venom (mixing)
95146	Two single stinging insect venoms (serum)
95147	Three single stinging insect venoms (mixed vespids)
95148	Four single stinging insect venoms (mixed vespids + one additional bee)
95149	Five single stinging insect venoms (mixed vespids +2 additional bees)

The stinging insects which are mostly commonly desensitized for allergic reactions are: honeybee, wasp, white faced hornet, yellow hornets and yellow jacket. Mixed vespid includes: white faced hornet, yellow hornet and yellow jacket as a combine antigen.

The CPT codes for bee venom desensitization include the number of bees in the descriptor for the code. A coder or provider will select the code based on the number of bee venoms appropriate for the patient's desensitization.

Case Study: Patient is allergic to honey bee and a treatment set is manufactured for the patient. The physician would bill for all of the doses anticipated to be given to the patient. The correct CPT code for the one bee would be 95145 with the units equaling the number of anticipated doses to be administered to the patient. The administration of the honey bee would also be charged with CPT code 95115 each time the patient receives a dose of bee venom.

Case Study: If the patient needs to be desensitized to white faced hornet, yellow hornet and yellow jacket, the correct code would be 95147 since there are three bees and the administration code would be 95115. All three bees are included in one extract. All of the doses that are anticipated to be given to the patient should be charged with the 95147. Again, the injection code would be coded when the bee venom is administered to the patient.

Case Study: The patient is allergy tested to all of the bees and is highly allergic to yellow faced hornet, yellow jacket, white faced hornet and honey bee. 95148 would be the appropriate code for this patient. The mixed vespids (95147) and one other bee (honey bee). Again, since the code includes all four bees, you would consider the doses in both vials as one unit for billing. The administration of the bee venom would be coded with 95117 since the mixed vespid and the additional bee are two separate injections.

All of the doses including the building doses may be charged to an insurance company or patient. The 95146, 95148, 95149 have more than one vial for doses. However, the RVU values for the codes reflect the cost involved in the increasing number of venoms in each of the codes. Therefore the doses in each vial are combined as one for billing.

If the provider needs to make additional venom antigen for one of the bees and not all, you may bill for the makeup doses until the patient is back on a schedule. Individual payers have different guidelines as to the timing for billing for the doses. Check your payer policies to see when it is appropriate to bill for the doses manufactured for bee venom desensitization.

*CPT codes for educational purposes only.