

Coding and Billing for E-cigarettes

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, participants will:

- Be familiar with ICD-10-CM codes used related to tobacco and nicotine use and counseling
- Be aware of CPT billing codes for tobacco use and exposure counseling



TWO TYPES OF CODES: CODING COMES BEFORE BILLING

- Coding: International Classification of Disease (ICD)
 - Documents diagnoses
 - Based on World Health Organization
 - Alphanumeric codes
 - Updated annually on October 1
- Billing: Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
 - US Standard, developed by the American Medical Association
 - Evaluation & Management and Procedure codes
 - Used by insurance companies to determine payment
 - Updated annually on January 1



ICD CODING

- Validates medical necessity of services, based on diagnosis
- Identifies why patients are being seen
- Identifies trends in population health
- Major component of quality initiatives and tracking
- Coding informs policy
- Coding defends billing
- The F17.29- series is for “ENDS” or vaping



FOUR TOBACCO CATEGORIES

1. Use
2. Dependence
3. Exposure
4. Past use



Using ICD-10-CM Codes

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VIGNETTE #1

- Violet, age 16, has come for a well-visit. She admits to some shortness of breath on exertion. Direct questioning reveals that she vapes 5-6 times a day.
- You describe the health effects of vaping, especially to her respiratory system. You briefly discuss options to assist her in quitting and counsel on cessation.



CODE USE BY YOUR PATIENT

ICD-10-CM

- F17.290 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated
- Z71.6 - Tobacco counseling



OTHER CODES THAT MIGHT APPLY

- Z72.0 Tobacco Use
- F17.200 Nicotine dependence, unspecified, uncomplicated
- F17.22 Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco
- F17.201 - Nicotine dependence, in remission
- Z87.891 – History of tobacco dependence



USE IS DIFFERENT THAN DEPENDENCE

- Use < abuse < dependence
- If use, abuse, and dependence are all documented, assign the code for dependence
- Assign the most specific code that you can

Not Appropriate to Use:

- Z72.0 – Tobacco Use
- F17.290 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated



VIGNETTE #2

- John, age 13, is brought in by his mother for a follow-up visit. She is concerned that he is distracted in school and his grades have been dropping.
- You speak with John alone and discover that he has been vaping at least 5 times a week with his friends.



CODE USE BY YOUR PATIENT

ICD-10-CM

- F17.290 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated



OTHER CODES THAT MIGHT APPLY

- F17.290 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated
- F17.291 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, in remission
- F17.293 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with withdrawal
- F17.298 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with other nicotine-induced disorders
- F17.299 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, unspecified nicotine-induced disorders



VIGNETTE #3

- Jeffrey, age 2, is brought in for a well-visit by his mom. In social history, you ask the mother whether she smokes or vapes and she admits that she started using e-cigarettes as a way to quit traditional cigarettes.
- You explain to her that e-cigarettes are not an approved cessation device and that the e-cigarette aerosol can negatively impact her child's health.



CODE USE BY HOUSEHOLD SMOKER

ICD-10-CM

Z77.22 - Secondhand Smoke Exposure

Z81.2 – Family history of tobacco abuse and dependence

Z71.89 – counseling, other specified



CPT Codes and E-cigarettes

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CPT: GETTING PAID FOR WHAT YOU DO

- Current Procedural Terminology = CPT codes
- Describes the service provided:
 - Medical
 - Surgical
 - Diagnostic
- Important for accreditation, administrative, and financial purposes



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Is it the patient who vapes? (teens)
- Is it the parent? (secondhand smoke)
- Is it a well visit?
- Is it a sick visit?



BILLING FOR E-CIGARETTE USE BY YOUR PATIENT

- This applies only if your teen patient is the e-cigarette user
- Counseling visit:
 - 99406: 3-10 minutes
 - 99407: >10 minutes
 - Could also do time-based coding
- Add counseling visit to an acute visit
 - 99214, mod 25 plus 99406



CPT CODES MOST COMMONLY USED

Tobacco Users:

- Time-based counseling
- 99406
- 99407

Secondhand Smoke Exposure:

- 99213-99214
 - Based on components
 - Can increase based on E&M time
- Well check codes include preventive counseling
 - New: 99381-99385
 - Est: 99391- 99395



BILLING OF SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

- Preventive Counseling of Parents
 - Pediatric health providers are unable to bill tobacco counseling (99406 or 99407) to the child's insurance
 - This applies to combustible cigarette smoke and e-cigarette aerosol



TIME-BASED BILLING

- Billing-on-time is the **most practical** way to get paid for services provided
- Add to E&M for illnesses related to secondhand smoke
 - Code exposure to secondhand smoke: Z77.22
 - Document time spent discussing secondhand smoke
 - Time spent counseling the parent or guardian falls under the E&M service time



COUNSELING

- Discussion with the teen patient and/or family concerning:
 - Diagnostic studies or results
 - Prognosis
 - Risks and benefits of management options
 - Importance of compliance
 - Patient and family education



TIME

- An explicit factor to assist in selecting the most appropriate level of E&M services
- When counseling and/or coordination of care are >50% of the face-to-face encounter, time is the key controlling factor
- Explicit documentation of time in the medical record is a must in this situation



CODING BASED ON TIME

- Must spend the entire allotted face-to-face time with the patient:
 - Half of that time must be used for counseling or coordination of care
 - Specifically for 99201-99215
- Document
 - Duration of encounter
 - Half the time was used for counseling or coordination of care
 - Type of counseling and coordination of care



Inpatient Billing



BILLING ON INPATIENT WARDS

- Documentation must support both the time spent and a summary of the discussion
- Components of billing are similar for outpatients and hospitalized patients
- Billing based on time with patient or unit/floor time if counseling or coordination of care dominate the service
 - Documentation must support both the time spent and a summary of the discussion
- Consider prolonged services for extended encounters



INPATIENT CPT CODES

- Initial care:
 - 99221-99223
- Subsequent care:
 - 99231 - 99233
- Discharge:
 - 99238: 30 minutes or less
 - 99239: over 30 minutes



TIME SPENT WITH PATIENT

	Initial Care	Subsequent Care	Discharge
Low	30 min – 99221	15 min – 99231	< 30 min 99238
Moderate	50 min – 99222	25 min – 99232	
High	70 min – 99223	35 min - 99233	> 30 min 99239



Putting it all Together

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MODIFIER -25

- Modifiers provide additional information for the insurance company
- Used when clinicians are billing for two separate services (eg a preventive visit and an office visit)
- Need to document that significant, separate services were provided on the same day
- May not always work – depends on the payer



VIGNETTE #2

Zach, age 15:

- Zach has come for a well check
- He offers that he experimented with e-cigarettes within the past month and denies traditional cigarette use because he cares about his health
- You congratulate that patient for caring about his health and avoiding combustible cigarette use.
- You spend 10 minutes informing him of the potential health hazards related to e-cigarettes, focusing on both the highly addictive and toxic nature of nicotine, which can lead to future cigarette use and encourage him to avoid any use of nicotine containing product

How do you code this encounter?



ZACH:

ICD 10-CM	CPT
Z00.121: Encounter for routine child health exam with abnormal findings	99394 Preventive Medicine Service, 12-17 years
F17.200: nicotine dependence, other product, uncomplicated	99406 modifier 25; smoking cessation counseling 3-10 minutes
Z71.89 – Other counseling	



CODING AT THE AAP

- Webpage: www.aap.org/coding
 - One stop shop for all coding related resources
 - Includes ICD-10-CM information and all topic-specific coding fact sheets
- [AAP Tobacco Coding Factsheet](#)
 - Overview of all tobacco and nicotine-related codes
- AAP Coding Hotline: aapcodinghotline@aap.org



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [NCHS information](#) on vaping and lung injury related to vaping
- [New ICD-10 code](#) can be used when vaping is related to the condition being treated
 - Starting April 1, 2020



KEY POINTS

- ICD-10-CM Codes are used to document diagnoses and validate the necessity of medical services
- ICD-10-CM Codes for “other tobacco products” can be used for e-cigarette use and exposure¹
- CPT Codes are used to help physicians get paid for the care they provide
- CPT codes for time-based counseling or preventive counseling can be used for e-cigarette use and exposure¹



REFERENCES

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Tobacco Coding Factsheet for Primary Care Pediatricians. AAP website. <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Richmond-Center/Documents/TobaccoCodingFactSheet.pdf>. Accessed January 24, 2020

