

Adverse Effect of COVID-19 Vaccines

While ICD-10-CM currently includes codes for post-COVID-19 conditions, there are no specific codes to reflect adverse health conditions due to COVID-19 vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccines and their side effects, are a focus of ongoing research and therapeutic studies.¹⁻⁶

The World Health Organization (WHO) ICD-10 includes code U12.9, COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use, unspecified. This WHO ICD-10 code is an external cause code, as it is considered a subcategory under external cause category Y59, Other and unspecified vaccines and biological substances. This code was not adopted in the ICD-10-CM because ICD-10-CM does not include the WHO ICD-10 external cause Y59 code category. In ICD-10-CM, vaccines causing adverse effects are classified in the injury chapter. Presently, an adverse effect of a COVID-19 vaccine would be assigned code T50.B95-, Adverse effect of other viral vaccines (with the appropriate 7th character for the encounter), following the appropriate code(s) for the nature of the adverse effect, as specified in the official coding guidelines for adverse effects.

React19 requests a code to uniquely identify adverse effects of COVID vaccines from other viral vaccines. In response, NCHS presents proposed modifications to the ICD-10-CM code set. The proposed unique code for adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccines will enable clinicians, researchers, and public health professionals to identify, track, and study these cases.

References

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TABULAR MODIFICATIONS

T50 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances

The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category T50.

A initial encounter
D subsequent encounter
S sequela

T50.B Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of viral vaccines

New
sub-subcategory

T50.B2 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of
COVID-19 vaccines

New code

T50.B25 Adverse effect of COVID-19 vaccines