Subject: Allergen Injections in Physician’s Office*

Effective Date: July 1, 1997

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Allergen injections, including preparation of the allergen extract when applicable, are reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To provide proper and consistent reimbursement.

Procedure:

1. There must be written documentation of the impracticality or ineffectiveness of avoidance or pharmacotherapy (e.g., antihistamines).

2. Covered CPT codes for professional services for allergen administration are divided into the following categories:

   a. Not including provision of allergenic extracts: 95115 (single injection), 95117 (two or more injections)

   b. Including provision of allergen extract: 95120 (single injection), 95125 (two or more injections)

   c. Supervision of preparation and provision of antigens/allergens per single dose vial: 95144 (specify number of vials)

   d. Stinging insect venoms: supervision of preparation and provision of antigens/allergens: 95145 (single insect venom), 95146 (two single insect venoms), 95147 (three single insect venoms), 95148 (four single insect venoms), 95149 (five single insect venoms)
e. Stinging insect venoms: provision of allergenic extract: 95130 (single stinging insect venom), 95131 (two stinging insect venoms), 95132 (three stinging insect venoms, 95133 (four stinging insect venoms, 95134 (five stinging insect venoms)

f. Whole body extract of biting insect or other arthropod: supervision of preparation and provision of antigens/allergens, per dose: 95170 (specify number of doses)

g. Supervision of preparation and provision of antigens/allergens, per dose: 95165 (single or multiple antigens (specify number of doses)

h. Rapid desensitization procedure, each hour: 95180 (specify number of hours) Examples of this include, but are not limited to, penicillin and equine serum.

3. The cost of commercially prepared antigenic/allergenic extracts is reimbursable, with submission of invoice.

4. An evaluation and management visit is reimbursable, in addition to the allergen injections, at intervals from one to three months.

5. The following treatments for allergy include but are not limited to those that are NOT reimbursable, as they have not been shown in refereed literature to be effective:

- acupuncture
- autogenous urine injections
- detoxification for allergies
- environmental chemical avoidance for idiopathic environmental intolerances
- enzyme-potentiated desensitization (EPD) immunotherapy
- high-dose sublingual-swallow immunotherapy
- homeopathic remedies for allergies
- injection of food extracts
- intranasal immunotherapy
- oral immunotherapy
References


Creticos PS. Subcutaneous immunotherapy for allergic disease: Indications and efficacy. UpToDate, Version 18.0.; December 14 2015, accessed online at www.uptodate.com


Creticos PS. Sublingual immunotherapy for allergic rhinitis. UpToDate, Version 22.0. accessed online at www.uptodate.com


Vickery BP, Burks W. Oral Immunotherapy for food allergy. Curr Opin Pediatric.2010 Sep 16[epub ahead of print]

Scurlock AM, Jones SM. An update on immunotherapy for food allergy. Curr Opinion Allergy Clin Immunology.2010 Sep 18[epub ahead of print]


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.