Division of TennCare

TO: **TennCare Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**
FROM: Johnny Lai, Director of Managed Care Operations
DATE: September 17, 2026
SUBJECT: New Stand-Alone Immunization/Vaccine Counseling Codes (Revision to Memo dated May 4, 2023)

Beginning with dates of service January 1, 2026, this memo revises and replaces in its entirety TennCare's memo dated May 4, 2023, involving stand-alone vaccine counseling and is retroactively effective to January 1, 2026. Effective April 1, 2023, TennCare required its MCOs to cover stand-alone vaccine counseling for all vaccines for TennCare and CoverKids members of all ages. Stand-alone vaccine or immunization counseling refers to when a patient and/or caregiver receives counseling about a vaccine/immunization from a health care practitioner, but the patient does not receive the vaccine dose on the same day as the counseling or the patient opts not to receive the vaccine dose at all.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released three new time-based stand-alone immunization counseling CPT codes (90482, 90483, and 90484) to replace the previous HCPCS stand-alone vaccine counseling codes that CMS released in 2022.

For claims with dates of service of January 1, 2026, and beyond, TennCare's Stand-Alone Immunization/Vaccine Counseling Guidance is as follows:

For TennCare, CoverKids, and TennCareSelect members of all ages, providers should use the following codes to indicate that immunization counseling was provided but the patient did not receive an immunization on that day. These codes are time-based, apply to all vaccines, and must be supported by documentation reflecting the total counseling time separate from any other services provided:

90482 – Immunization counseling by physician or other qualified health care professionals when the immunization(s) is not administered by the provider on the same date of service; **3 minutes up to 10 minutes**
90483 – Immunization counseling by physician or other qualified health care professionals when the immunization(s) is not administered by the provider on the same date of service; **greater than 10 minutes up to 20 minutes**
90484 – Immunization counseling by physician or other qualified health care professionals when the immunization(s) is not administered by the provider on the same date of service; **greater than 20 minutes**

- Report these codes with any E/M service, including preventive visits, (**99202** - **99215** and **99381** – **99395**) when applicable, or as a standalone code when counseling is provided without a separately reported E/M.
- These codes are reported once per date of service and only when no vaccine/immunization is administered on the same date of service.
- Report the standalone immunization counseling code that reflects the cumulative

time spent on the date of service.
- Modifier 25 is required on the E/M if billed with 90482 – 90484 and only when the E/M service is a significant and separately identifiable service from the standalone immunization counseling codes.
- When counseling is provided for multiple immunizations and some, but not all, vaccines are administered during the same encounter, CPT codes 90460-90461 and 90482-90484 may be reported on the same date of service, as appropriate.
- Time spent counseling on administered immunizations should not be included in the calculation of time for immunizations not administered.
- When the immunization counseling is delivered using telehealth, then TennCare providers must append the appropriate telehealth modifier with the appropriate place of service (POS) code, as shared in TennCare's Guidance for Telehealth Services March 7, 2025 memo.

For claims with dates of service through December 31, 2025, TennCare's MCOs will allow coding using the previous guidance under TennCare's Memo dated May 4, 2023.

TennCare recognizes the additional administrative responsibilities placed on Tennessee's providers when providing vaccine counseling. It is important that Tennessee's providers take time to answer any questions that Tennesseans may have concerning vaccines so that Tennesseans may receive this professional consultation and make a personal decision regarding any vaccine.

TennCare's MCOs should notify providers as appropriate of this change by posting this update to your MCO's provider website for 90 calendar days and by sending a provider email blast within 45 calendar days of receipt of this memo.