
POLICY DETERMINATION



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

***Current Policy Effective Date: 5/1/26**

Title: 90695 Influenza virus vaccine, H5N8, derived from cell cultures, adjuvanted, for intramuscular use

Brief Description of Service:

H5N8 Avian Influenza Vaccine: The American Medical Association (AMA) has updated the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code set to include new codes for vaccines protecting against the H5N8 strain of avian influenza.

This update follows a recent global outbreak of avian influenza, particularly the H5N1 strain, which has affected wild birds, poultry, dairy cows, and other mammals, including humans. The CDC reports 11 human cases in the US, with five confirmed as H5N1.

In response, the AMA introduced a provisional **CPT code** for the H5N8 Avian Influenza Vaccine candidates that have received emergency use authorization from the FDA. The new product code is:

- 90695: H5N8 Influenza virus vaccine, derived from cell cultures, adjuvant for intramuscular use

This new code will come into effect following the acquisition of **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** or FDA approval. The introduction of this code reflects the AMA's proactive approach to preparing for potential flu outbreaks, particularly those involving new and potentially more virulent strains of the virus.

Aquatic birds form a natural reservoir of avian influenza viruses from which new human and animal influenza viruses originate. After initial detection in 2010 in China, a new highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus of the H5N8 subtype reemerged in ducks in South Korea in 2014). The hemagglutinin gene of this virus was distantly related to those of H5N1 subtypes that have caused infections in humans since 1997. The World Health Organization/World Organization for Animal Health/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations H5N1 Evolution Working Group has assigned this new H5 to clade 2.3.4.4. Several poultry farms in the Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, and Italy were recently affected by infection with H5N8 virus closely related to the strains circulating in Asia, leading to

implementation of preventive measures to restrict viral spread. Human infections with this new HPAI subtype have not been reported.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not yet approved this vaccine.

The CPT code for this vaccine is effective 1/1/2025.

Recommendation:

The Influenza virus vaccine, H5N8, derived from cell cultures, adjuvanted, for intramuscular use vaccine is **experimental/investigational**. It has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CPT/HCPCS Level II Codes *(Note: The inclusion of a code in this list is not a guarantee of coverage. Please refer to the medical policy statement to determine the status of a given procedure.)*

Established codes:

N/A

Other codes (investigational, not medically necessary, etc.):

90695

References:

1. Vaccines Licensed for the Use in the United States [Vaccines Licensed for Use in the United States | FDA](#) accessed 12/1/25
2. H5N8 Avian Influenza [New CPT Codes for H5N8 Avian Influenza Vaccine: AMA Updates](#) accessed 12/1/25
3. New CPT Codes Release: Essential Updates for 2024-2025 Vaccine Administration [New CPT Codes Released: Essential Updates for 2024-2025 Vaccine Administration](#) accessed 12/1/25
4. Induction of Influenza (H5N8) Antibodies by Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara H5N1 Vaccine. [Induction of Influenza \(H5N8\) Antibodies by Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara H5N1 Vaccine - PMC](#) accessed 12/1/25

Joint Blue Cross/BCN Medical Policy History

Policy Effective Date	Blue Cross Signature Date	BCN Signature Date	Comments
5/1/25	2/18/25		Policy determination – EI (jf) Vendor Managed: N/A
5/1/26	2/17/26		Routine maintenance (jf) Vendor Managed: N/A

Next Review Date: 1st Qtr. 2027