

Quick coding guide for 2025-2026 flu season viruses

This flu season has seen an uptick in flu cases as well as several other common viruses floating around. Use this quick reference guide to help determine what codes will capture each of these viruses.

Respiratory viruses

• Influenza

- **J11-**: Influenza due to unidentified influenza virus
- **J10-**: Influenza due to other identified influenza virus
 - Includes non-novel type A (NOT specified as avian, swine, of other animal origin or unspecified)
 - Influenza B
 - Influenza C
- **J09.X-**: Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus
 - Includes avian (or “bird”), swine flu
 - Includes influenza of animal origin specifically stated, but not of bird or swine origin
 - Includes influenza A specified as H5N1

• Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- **B97.4**: RSV as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
 - This code is only used to indicate that the patient has tested positive for the virus. Use as a secondary code.
- **J12.1**: Respiratory syncytial virus pneumonia
- **J20.5**: Acute bronchitis due to RSV
- **J21.0**: Acute bronchiolitis due to RSV

• COVID-19

- **U07.1**: COVID-19 (the primary code for an active infection)
- **U09.9**: Post COVID-19 condition, unspecified
 - Assign first the residual conditions related to COVID-19 infection
- **J12.82**: Pneumonia due to COVID-19 (code U07.1 first)
- **Z86.16**: Personal history of COVID-19 (for past infections)

- **Rhinovirus (Common Cold)**

- **J00:** Acute nasopharyngitis (common cold)
- **J20.6:** Acute bronchitis due to rhinovirus
- **B97.89:** Other viral agents as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
 - Assign as secondary when rhinovirus is the cause of a condition for which there is no combination code.

- **Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV)**

- **J12.3:** Human metapneumovirus pneumonia
- **B97.81:** hMPV as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere
 - Assign as secondary when hMPV is the cause of a condition for which there is no combination code.

Gastrointestinal and Other Viruses

- **Norovirus**

- **A08.11:** Acute gastroenteropathy due to **Norwalk agent** (Norovirus).

- **Adenovirus**

- **B34.0:** Adenovirus infection, unspecified
- **J12.0:** Adenoviral pneumonia

- **Parainfluenza**

- **J12.2:** Parainfluenza virus pneumonia
- **J20.4:** Acute bronchitis due to parainfluenza virus

***Editor's note:** This quick guide was created from guidance provided by Robbi Funderburk James, director of coding & OASIS for Healthcare Provider Solutions, Adriana Molina, coding and OASIS educator for Trilogy/Humana CenterWell and Ohio-based home health coding expert Brandi Whitemyer.*