

A decorative graphic consisting of a grid of squares and photographs. The grid is composed of several squares in shades of dark teal and light blue. Interspersed within this grid are several photographs: a close-up of window blinds, a smiling female doctor in a white lab coat and glasses, and a doctor's hands resting on a desk with a stethoscope.

CureMD

# Whitepaper

Your Guide to Smart Billing Practices for Allergy Season

Allergic rhinitis, often known as hay fever, affects over 50 million Americans each year and ranks as the sixth leading chronic illness in the U.S. Efficiently managing billing codes during allergy season is crucial for family practice management.

## ICD-10 Spotlight: J30.2 Allergic Rhinitis due to Pollen

# Understanding Allergic Rhinitis

### Prevalence

Allergies cost approximately \$18 billion annually, highlighting their significant economic impact.

### Symptoms

Common symptoms include sneezing, congestion, runny nose, watery eyes, and itching of the nose, eyes, or palate.

## Treatment and Billing Options

### Avoidance

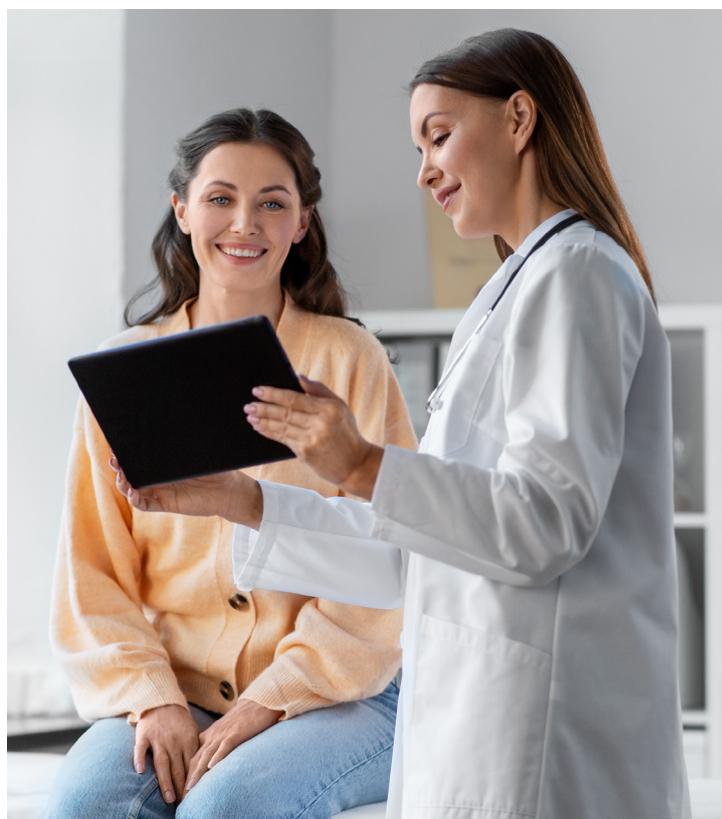
The first line of defense involves reducing exposure to allergens.

### Medication

Both prescribed and over-the-counter drugs can alleviate symptoms.

### Immunotherapy

Provides long-term relief and is suited for patients unresponsive to conventional treatments.





# Key Billing Codes for Allergy Immunotherapy

## CPT 95115

Single injection, excluding allergenic extracts.

## CPT 95117

Two or more injections, excluding allergenic extracts.

## CPT 95120

Single injection, including allergenic extracts, administered in a physician's office.

## CPT 95125

Multiple injections, including allergenic extracts, in physician's office.

## CPT 95144

Supervision and provision of single dose vial(s) of antigens.

## CPT 95165

Supervision and provision of single dose vial(s) of antigens.

## Common Coding Mistakes to Avoid

### Code Overlooking

Avoid misusing J30.1 for general allergic rhinitis. Instead, use J30.5 for food-induced allergies or J30.81 for rhinitis due to animal hair. The more specific you are, the more accurately your practice can get reimbursed.



## Immunotherapy Injections

Remember, 95115 is used for a single injection only. If multiple injections are given, the correct CPT code is 95117. This code can be used for any number of injections but should always be billed as one unit.

## E/M Coding with Allergy Testing

Do not bill an evaluation and management (E/M) code on the same day as allergy testing unless the visit pertains to an unrelated condition. Allergy testing codes, such as 95004, include test interpretation and reporting. These services overlap with the components of an E/M code and will be denied when billed together.

## Underreporting Immunotherapy Units

Billing for immunotherapy—usually 95165—can be tricky. The guidelines for how units for the antigen and dilutions must be billed vary by payer and state. Watch for monthly and daily serum limits for each payer to ensure that all units of serum are reimbursed.

## Time Consuming Treatment Follow-Up

Treatments requiring extensive time or same-day follow-ups should use appropriate modifiers to avoid denials. Keep in mind that most items on a claim are allotted a specific amount of time, but treatments such as rush immunotherapy and drug desensitization may be billed on an hourly basis.

# Maximize Efficiency and Revenue

Leverage precise billing practices to enhance your practice's efficiency and ensure patients receive timely and effective relief. Consider partnering with CureMD to optimize your medical billing processes, allowing you to focus on patient care.

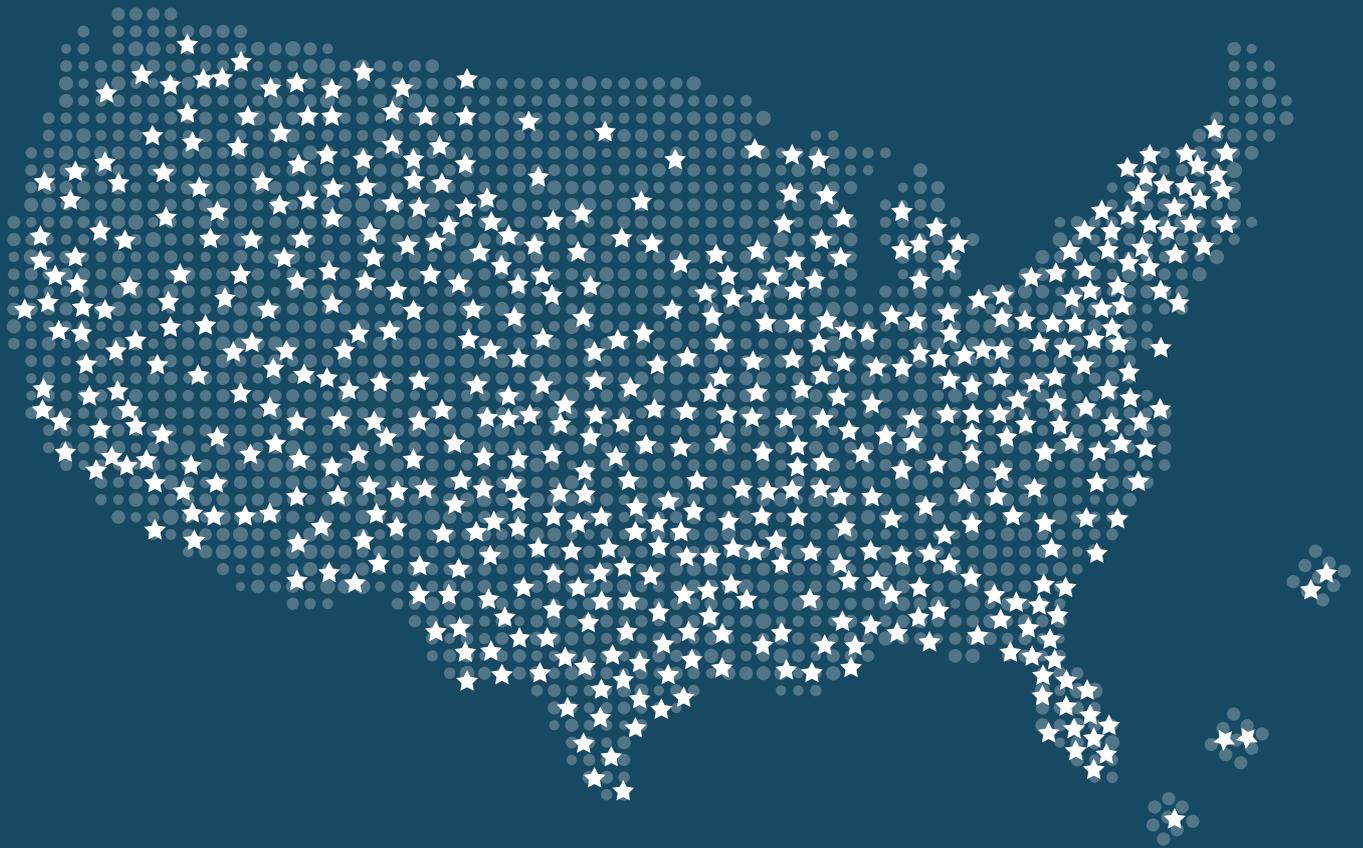
[www.curemd.com/demo-form.asp](http://www.curemd.com/demo-form.asp)



## Conclusion

Navigating the billing landscape during allergy season requires meticulous attention to detail and a deep understanding of coding practices. By avoiding common pitfalls and utilizing efficient billing strategies, your practice can enhance patient care and boost revenue.





## Practice without boundaries™

CureMD Healthcare - 80 Pine street, New York, NY 10005 (212) 509 6200 - [curemd.com](http://curemd.com)

CureMD Healthcare reserves the right to make changes in specifications and features shown herein, or discontinue the product described at any time without notice or obligation.

Contact your CureMD representative for the most current information. © CureMD Healthcare – All rights reserved. CMD/519