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## COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use

### \*Effective from 1 January 2021\*

To identify adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccines in therapeutic use, the World Health Organization has activated an additional emergency use code.

In Australia, this emergency use code will be implemented as U07.7 *Emergency use of U07.7 [COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use]*.

Assign U07.7 in addition to external cause codes where clinical documentation indicates that a patient has experienced an adverse effect due to a COVID-19 vaccination.

The COVID-19 vaccines currently approved for use in Australia are not serum based, therefore codes from T80 *Complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection* are not appropriate.

Example 1: A patient is admitted with allergic urticaria due to a COVID-19 vaccination. Assign codes for the adverse effect followed by emergency use code U07.7:

Codes:        T88.1    *Other complications following immunisation, not elsewhere classified*  
                  L50.0    *Allergic urticaria*  
                  Y59.0    *Viral vaccines [causing adverse effects in therapeutic use]*  
                  Y92.23 *Health service area, not specified as this facility*  
                  U07.7    *Emergency use of U07.7 [COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use]*

Example 2: A patient presents with wheezing, itchy skin and difficulty swallowing and is diagnosed with anaphylaxis due to COVID 19 vaccination. Assign a code for the anaphylaxis followed by emergency use code U07.7:

Codes:        T88.6    *Anaphylaxis and anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered*  
                  Y59.0    *Viral vaccines [causing adverse effects in therapeutic use]*  
                  Y92.23 *Health service area, not specified as this facility*  
                  U07.7    *Emergency use of U07.7 [COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use]*

See also Coding Rule *Allergens and anaphylaxis*.



Reference:

World Health Organization 2020, *Serology and early investigation protocols*, viewed 2 September 2020, <<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/serology-in-the-context-of-covid-19>>.

Australian Government Department of Health 2021, *Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?*, viewed 21 January 2021, <<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/about-covid-19-vaccines/are-covid-19-vaccines-safe>>.

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention 2021, *Allergic reactions*, United States Department of Health & Human Services, viewed 21 January 2021, <<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html>>.