

2021 Evaluation & Management Updates

Office or Other Outpatient (99202-99215) Changes

HIGHLIGHTS

- **NO Change** to level selection for services for the Emergency Room, Inpatient / Observation hospital
- Level selection determined by either
 - The level of medical decision making as defined for each service (see *reverse*); **or**
 - The total time for E/M services performed on the date of the encounter (*excluding 99211*)

TIME

- Total time on the date of the encounter, which includes face-to-face and non-face-to-face time personally spent by the physician and/or QHP(s) on the day of the encounter
- Can count time by multiple providers, but can only count one provider per minute
- Does NOT include time in activities normally performed by clinical staff
- Does NOT include time spent performing a procedure (when separately reported)
- DOES include the following activities:
 - Preparing to see the patient (eg, review of tests)
 - Obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history
 - Performing a medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation
 - Counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver
 - Ordering medications, tests, or procedures
 - Documenting clinical information in the electronic health record
 - Referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not separately reported)
 - Independently interpreting results (when not separately reported), and communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver
 - Care coordination (when not separately reported)

PROLONGED SERVICES-99417

- Shorter prolonged services code to capture each 15 minutes of critical physician/QHP work beyond the time captured by the office or other outpatient service E/M code
- Used with only 99205 or 99215
- Prolonged services of less than 15 minutes should **not** be reported

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New Patient E/M Code	Total Time (2021)
99201	Code deleted
99202	15-29 minutes
99203	30-44 minutes
99204	45-59 minutes
99205*	60-74 minutes

Est Patient E/M Code	Total Time (2021)
99211	Time component removed (Not applicable to facility based clinics)
99212	10-19 minutes
99213	20-29 minutes
99214	30-39 minutes
99215*	40-54 minutes

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Code	Level of MDM (Based on 2 out of 3 Elements of MDM)	Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed	Elements of Medical Decision Making	
			Amount and/or Complexity of Data to be Reviewed and Analyzed	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality of Patient Management
99211	N/A	N/A	*Each unique test, order, or document contributes to the combination of 2 or combination of 3 in Category 1 below.	
99202 99212	Straightforward	Minimal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 self-limited or minor problem 	Minimal or none	
99203 99213	Low	Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; or 1 stable chronic illness; or 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury 	Limited <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 of the 2 categories)</i> Category 1: Tests and documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any combination of 2 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; review of the result(s) of each unique test*; ordering of each unique test* or Category 2: Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <i>(For the categories of independent interpretation of tests and discussion of management or test interpretation, see moderate or high)</i>	
99204 99214	Moderate	Moderate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; or 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or 1 acute complicated injury 	Moderate <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 out of 3 categories)</i> Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any combination of 3 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; Ordering of each unique test*; Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) or Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported); or Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported) 	
99205 99215	High	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function 	Extensive <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 2 out of 3 categories)</i> Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any combination of 3 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; Ordering of each unique test*; Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) or Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported); or Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported) 	