

Evaluation & Management Coding Office Hours

Ann Finn | March 23, 2020

Learning Objectives

By the end of the office hours, participants will be able to:

- Identify key E/M changes that went into effect on January 1, 2021 and apply these changes to their practice
- Address challenges in their agency to accurately code family planning visits
- Describe the changes to medical-decision-making (MDM)

Moderator

Caitlin Hungate (she/her/hers), MDP
TTA Provider



Expert

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Reimbursement Consultant



Key Changes to Evaluation & Management (E/M) codes

- New and established client codes (99202-99205, 99212-99215) no longer require the three key components or reference typical face-to-face time.
- Instead, each service includes “a medically appropriate history and/or examination,” and code selection is now based on:
 - an updated **medical decision making (MDM) level** OR
 - **time**, including both face-to-face and non-face-to-face spent in the client’s care on the day of the encounter

Updated Elements of MDM

- Number and complexity of problems addressed
- Amount and/or complexity of data to be reviewed and analyzed
- Risk of complications and/or morbidity or mortality of client management

Resource: American Medical Association (AMA). [CPT Evaluation and Management \(E/M\) Office or Other Outpatient \(99202-99215\) and Prolonged Services \(99354, 99355, 99356, 99XXX\) Code and Guideline Changes.](#)

Time Method Updates

- In the past, the time method could be used if counseling or coordination of care with a provider exceeded 50% of their total face-to-face time with a client.
- Effective January 1, 2021, time for these services is the total cumulative time on the date of the encounter. It includes both the face-to-face and non-face-to-face time personally spent by the physician and/or other qualified health care professional(s) on the day of the encounter. It usually does not include time in activities normally performed by clinical staff.

New Patient	Time	Established Patient	Time
99202	15-29 mins	99212	10-19 mins
99203	30-44 mins	99213	20-29 mins
99204	45-59 mins	99214	30-39 mins
99205	60-74 mins	99215	40-54 mins

Tip

It is important to remember that one method may not and will not fit all visits and providers should use the method that is most appropriate for the care given and results in the highest level code that is supported in the documentation.

Questions?

Resources

- American Medical Association (AMA). [CPT Evaluation and Management \(E/M\) Office or Other Outpatient \(99202-99215\) and Prolonged Services \(99354, 99355, 99356, 99XXX\) Code and Guideline Changes.](#)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2020). [Evaluation and Management Changes for 2021.](#)
- Coming soon:
 - Reproductive Health National Training Center (RHNTC) eLearning Fundamentals of Coding
 - RHNTC Frequently Used ICD-10 and CPT/HCPCS job aids

Thank you!

Contact:

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