

E/M Summary Guide for Office and Other Outpatient Services

Appendix

Effective January 1, 2021

Full table

| Elements of Medical Decision Making | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Code | Level of MDM (based on best of 2 out of 3 Elements of MDM) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed | Amount and/or Complexity of Data to be Reviewed and Analyzed <i>*Each unique test, order, or document contributes to the combination of 2 or combination of 3 in Category 1 below</i> | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality of Patient Management (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making) |
| 99211 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 99202 99212 | Straightforward | Minimal | Minimal or none | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 self-limited or minor problem | | |
| 99203 99213 | Low | Low | Limited <i>Must meet the requirements of at least 1 of the 2 categories</i> | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; 1 stable chronic illness; or 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1: Tests and documents - 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*. Category 2: Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) | |
| 99204 99214 | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate <i>Must meet the requirements of at least 1 of the 3 categories</i> | Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or 1 acute complicated injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1: Tests and documents - 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). 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). Category 3: Discussion or management or test interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of management or test interpretation by external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported). | <i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescription drug management Decision regarding minor surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors Decision regarding elective major surgery without identified patient or procedure risk factors Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health |
| 99205 99215 | High | High | Extensive <i>Must meet the requirements of at least 2 of the 3 categories</i> | High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment |
| | | <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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1: Tests and documents - 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). 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). Category 3: Discussion or management or test interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of management or test interpretation by external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported). | <i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity Decision regarding elective major surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors Decision regarding emergency major surgery Decision regarding hospitalization Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care because of poor prognosis |

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING