



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 25, 2020

**TO:** Santé Physicians

**FROM:** Kelly Lilles, Director, Physician Services & Education

**RE:** New 2021 Evaluation and Management (E&M) Guidelines

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Effective January 1, 2021, the American Medical Association (AMA) & the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announces the implementation of the revised Evaluation and Management (E&M) Guidelines related to office and other outpatient codes, 99202-99215. These revisions have the potential to significantly reduce physician burden and improve patient care. However, in order to properly implement these large-scale changes, proactive planning is critical.

These changes apply to new and established office patients.

- 99201 level of care will be deleted
- Level of care will be determined by the time spent or by the medical decision making
- New rules for adding time spent
- New table for calculating medical decision-making (see attached table)
- New G-code, temporarily known as GPC1X, for increased medical complexity and/or primary care
- New prolonged services code for new and established patient office visits

Attached you will find the summary of major E/M revisions for 2021 as well as the table for level of Medical Decision Making (MDM).

**For additional resources, visit the following websites:**

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-04/e-m-office-visit-changes.pdf>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-06/cpt-office-prolonged-svs-code-changes.pdf>

<https://www.aapc.com/evaluation-management/em-codes-changes-2021.aspx>

For questions or concerns, please contact your Billing Manager or call the Santé Customer Service Department at (559) 228-5410.

## **Summary of Major E/M Revisions for 2021: Office or Other Outpatient Services**

### **New Patient (99201 has been deleted. To report, use 99202)**

**99202:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires a medically appropriate, and/or examination and straightforward medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 15-29 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

**99203:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and low level of medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 30-44 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

**99204:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 45-59 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

**99205:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 60-74 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter. (For services 75 minutes or longer, see Prolonged Services 99XXX)

## **Established Patient**

**99211:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient that may not require the presence of a physician or other qualified health care professional. Usually, the presenting problem(s) are minimal.

**99212:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and straightforward medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 10-19 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

**99213:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and low level of medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 20-29 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

**99214:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 30-39 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter.

**99215:** Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making. When using time for code selection, 40-54 minutes of total time is spent on the date of the encounter. (For services 55 minutes or longer, see Prolonged Services 99XXX)