

2021 Requirements for E/M Codes 99202-99205

Code	History/Exam	MDM	Total Minutes
99202	Medically appropriate history and/or examination	Straightforward	15-29
99203		Low	30-44
99204		Moderate	45-59
99205		High	60-74

2021 Requirements for E/M Codes 99212-99215

Code	History/Exam	MDM	Total Minutes
99212	Medically appropriate history and/or examination	Straightforward	10-19
99213		Low	20-29
99214		Moderate	30-39
99215		High	40-54

Elements of Time-Based Coding

Provider time includes the following activities, when performed:

- Preparing to see the patient such as reviewing the pts record
- Obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history
- Performing a medically appropriate history and examination
- Counseling and educating the patient, family, and/or caregiver
- Ordering prescription medications, tests, or procedures
- Referring and communicating with other health care providers when not separately reported during the visit
- Documenting clinical information in the EHR
- Independently interpreting results when not separately reported
- Communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver
- Coordinating the care of the patient when not separately reported

+99417 – Prolonged office or other outpatient evaluation and management service(s), each 15 minutes *of total time*
Example: A visit of 84 minutes with an established patient would be 99215 plus two 99417 prolonged service
***New Pts:** If total time is less than 15 minutes, No Code will apply. If time is greater than 74 add Prolonged EM Service.
***Est Pts:** If total time is less than 10 minutes, No Code will apply. If times greater than 55 minutes add Prolonged EM Service. Total time must fall exactly into the ranges for the code to apply.

Elements of Medical Decision Making

Code	Level of MDM (Based on 2 of 3 Elements of MDM)	Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed	Amount and/or Complexity of Data to be Reviewed and Analyzed *Each unique test, order, or document contributes to the combination of 2 or combination of 3 in Category 1 below.	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality of Patient Management
99211	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
99202 99212	Straightforward	Minimal • 1 self-limited or minor problem	Minimal or none	Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
99203 99213	Low	Low • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; or • 1 stable chronic illness; or • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury	Limited (Must meet the requirements of at least 1 of the 2 categories) Category 1: Tests and documents • Any combination of 2 from the following: • 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) (For the categories of independent interpretation of tests and discussion of management or test interpretation, see moderate or high)	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
99204 99214	Moderate	Moderate • 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; • 1 acute complicated injury	Moderate (Must meet the requirements of at least 1 out of 3 categories) Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s) • Any combination of 3 from the following: • 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 • Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported); Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)	Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment Examples only: • 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 • 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; • 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function	Extensive (Must meet the requirements of at least 2 out of 3 categories) Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s) • Any combination of 3 from the following: • 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 • Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported); Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)	High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment Examples only: • 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 • DNR