

CODING OUTPATIENT E/M VISITS

99212 Time based: 10-19 minutes

99202 Time based: 15-29 minutes

Straightforward medical decision making (need 2 of 3):

Problems	Data	Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 self-limited or minor problem 	Minimal or none	Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment

99213 Time based: 20-29 minutes

99203 Time based: 30-44 minutes

Low complexity medical decision making (need 2 of 3):

Problems	Data (1 of 2 needed)	Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 stable chronic illness or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 acute uncomplicated illness or injury 	Category 1 (2 needed): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each unique source's prior external note(s) reviewed • Each unique test's result(s) reviewed • Each unique test ordered Category 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent historian required 	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment

99214 Time based: 30-39 minutes

99204 Time based: 45-59 minutes

Moderate complexity medical decision making (need 2 of 3):

Problems	Data (1 of 3 needed)	Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more stable chronic illnesses or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 acute complicated injury 	Category 1 (3 needed): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each unique source's prior external note(s) reviewed • Each unique test's result(s) reviewed • Each unique test ordered • Independent historian required Category 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent interpretation of test performed by another physician/QHP* Category 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with external physician/QHP* 	Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription drug management • Decision for minor surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors • Decision for elective major surgery without identified patient or procedure risk factors • Social determinants of health that significantly limit diagnosis/treatment

99215 Time based: 40-54 minutes

99205 Time based: 60-74 minutes

High complexity medical decision making (need 2 of 3):

Problems	Data (2 of 3 needed)	Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function 	Category 1 (3 needed): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each unique source's prior external note(s) reviewed • Each unique test's result(s) reviewed • Each unique test ordered • Independent historian required Category 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent interpretation of test performed by another physician/QHP* Category 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with external physician/QHP* 	High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity • Decision for elective major surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors • Decision for emergency major surgery • Decision for hospitalization • Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care due to poor prognosis

*Not separately reported

Total Time

Total time is the sum of all time — face-to-face and non-face-to-face, including prolonged time — spent by the reporting clinician on the date of service.

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

Prolonged services – Medicare

New patient	Time (minutes)	Established patient	Time (minutes)
99205 + G2212	89-103	99215 + G2212	69-83
99205 + G2212 X 2	104-118	99215 + G2212 X 2	84-98
99205 + G2212 X 3 or more for each 15 minutes	119 or more	99215 + G2212 X 3 or more for each 15 minutes	99 or more

Prolonged services – CPT

New patient	Time (minutes)	Established patient	Time (minutes)
99205 + 99417	75-89	99215 + 99417	55-69
99205 + 99417 X 2	90-104	99215 + 99417 X 2	70-84
99205 + 99417 X 3 or more for each additional 15 minutes	105 or more	99215 + 99417 X 3 or more for each additional 15 minutes	85 or more



FPM Toolbox To find more practice resources, visit <https://www.aafp.org/fpm/toolbox>.

Developed by Thomas Weida, MD, and Jane Weida, MD, based on the 2021 Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services Guidelines, <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-06/cpt-office-prolonged-svs-code-changes.pdf>. Related article: <https://www.aafp.org/fpm/2022/0100/p26.html>.