

THE ROSETTA STONE FOUR-STEP TEMPLATE FOR CODING OFFICE VISITS

	Level 2 visit	Level 3 visit	Level 4 visit	Level 5 visit
Step 1: Total time*	99212 < 20 min 99202 < 30 min	99213 20-29 min 99203 30-44 min	99214 30-39 min 99204 45-59 min	99215 40-54 min 99205 60-74 min
Step 2: Problems plus	Level 2 problem: minor or self-limited problem (e.g., simple rash) PLUS < 20 minutes (or < 30 minutes for new patients)	Level 3 problem: two or more minor or self-limited problems OR one stable chronic illness (e.g., COPD, diabetes, or hypertension) OR one uncomplicated acute illness/injury (e.g., UTI, sinusitis, or simple ankle sprain) PLUS Rx [†] or OTC medication management	Level 4 problem: one unstable chronic illness ^{††} OR two stable chronic illnesses (e.g., diabetes or chronic kidney disease) OR one undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis (e.g., breast lump) OR one acute illness with systemic symptoms (e.g., pneumonia, colitis, pyelonephritis, or pelvic inflammatory disease) OR one acute complicated injury (e.g., head injury with brief loss of consciousness) PLUS Rx	Level 5 problem: one chronic illness with severe exacerbation (e.g., life-threatening COPD/asthma attack) OR one acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function (e.g., heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolism, acute kidney injury, or depression with suicidal ideation) PLUS admission decision
Step 3: Simple data or social determinants of health (SDOH)			Level 4 problem PLUS personally interpret a study (e.g., "I personally looked at the X-ray and it shows ...") OR discuss patient management or a study with an external physician OR modify workup or treatment due to SDOH	
Step 4: Complex data			Level 4 problem PLUS review/order unique test/study (one point each), review external notes from unique source (one point each), or use independent historian (one point max). At least three points needed.	Level 5 problem PLUS order/interpret a study (e.g., X-ray or ECG) and review/order two tests

*Codes 99202-99205 are for new patients and 99212-99215 are for established patients. For visits that take longer than level 5 time, see "Prolonged Services Guide."

[†]Rx = prescription drug management (ordering, stopping, modifying, or deciding to continue a prescription medication).

^{††}Condition is worsening, poorly controlled, or not to goal (e.g., hypertension with elevated blood pressure or diabetes with elevated A1C).

Note: You are not credited with interpretation of a test or study if you are billing separately for it.



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

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