

2021 Evaluation and Management Changes

E/M Overhaul

- Removal of History and Physical Exam as a component in E/M leveling
- Deletion of CPT® code 99201
- Addition of Prolong Service CPT® code 99XXX
- Time or Medical Decision Making as sole factors in E/M leveling

Time

- Defined as “total time” spent on an encounter
- Time may be used in selecting a level in Office or Other Outpatient Services when counseling and/or coordination of care may or may not dominate the service
- Professional time includes the sum of the following:
 - Preparing to see the patient, referrals, counseling, etc.

Medical Decision Making

- Only two of the three elements for a specific level need to be met or exceeded
- MDM does not apply to CPT® code 99211
- Should a physician or other QHCP report a separate CPT® code that includes interpretation and/or report, then it should not be counted toward the MDM element

2019 Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Findings

- Overall E/M Projected Improper Payments – \$3.79B
- 99214 – about \$423M (5.0%)
 - Mainly incorrect coding and insufficient documentation
- 99215 – about \$108M (9.9%)
 - Largely incorrect coding

How To Prepare

- Take time to thoroughly understand these changes and how they apply to your setting of service
- Ensure EHR templates are up to date
- Know your data to understand the financial implications
- Invest in provider education programs for documentation and coding accuracy and consistency

Disclaimer: The education provided is based on interpretation of information found at AMA and CMS. Enjoin does not warrant that the materials presented are free of error and does not intend to provide coding recommendations on any specific case. Coding guidelines and other information may change, and guidance will be updated periodically. Education is current as of 9.11.2020. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Copyright 2019 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.