

Reminder-2024 E/M Changes

October 18, 2023

Code descriptor revisions are about time. After the extensive changes made to the evaluation and management (E/M) codes and guidelines over the last few years, you'll be pleased to know that the 2024 E/M changes are minimal. However, that doesn't mean they are insignificant.

Focusing on Time

The time ranges have been removed from both the new and established office/outpatient E/M codes and replaced with a single total time amount, which is the lowest number of minutes in the current range for each code. This time "must be met or exceeded" according to the new wording that now appears in each of the codes' descriptors.

For example, 99202 *Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and straightforward medical decision making ...* has a current time range of 15-29 minutes, but beginning Jan. 1, 2024, the provider must meet or exceed 15 minutes of total service time before you can bill this code by time.

Changes Made

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Cont'd

In table form, the changes look like this:

CODE	2023 "total time ... spent on the date of the encounter"	2024 "total time on the date of the encounter" that "must be
99202	15-29	15
99203	30-44	30
99204	45-59	45
99205	60-74	60
99212	10-19	10
99213	20-29	20
99214	30-39	30
99215	40-54	40

What Isn't Changing

No changes made to the descriptor for 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*. You will continue to bill this code per usual in 2024.

References: CMS, AMA, AAPC websites