

Big E/M Changes in 2023

July 19, 2022

The AMA summary contains a number of proposed E/M changes to several categories/service types that will have a major impact on many different provider types. The summary also indicates planned revisions to the Levels of Medical Decision (MDM) table but provides no detail at this time. **The new coding changes are scheduled to be implemented January 1, 2023.**

Significant E/M code changes for the following service types include:

- ⇒ **Inpatient/Observation** – Deletion of observation codes 99217-99226 with added language to the initial and subsequent inpatient codes 99221-99223 and 99231-99233. This would be more beneficial to the physicians with regards to reimbursement as the current observation codes are poorly reimbursed.
- ⇒ **Consultations for Inpatient/Outpatient** – Deletion of 99251 and 99241 which similarly reflect the deletion of level one services that went into effect this year for 99201.
- ⇒ **Prolonged Services** – 2 new codes 908X0 and 903X0, deletion of 99345 -99357 and revision of codes 99417 and 99483. As of 2021, codes 99345-99357 cannot be used with office visits. The proposal also indicates revisions to the service heading and guidelines.
- ⇒ **Emergency Department** – Revision of codes 99281-99285 and guidelines but no specifics at this time.
- ⇒ **Home Health/Residence** – Deletion of 12 E/M codes and revision of 8 E/M codes with guideline revisions in both areas. The proposal appears to consolidate these services as many are repetitive.

In total, the number of proposed E/M code changes include:

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Cont'd

Service setting/type	New codes	Deleted codes	Revised codes
Hospital inpatient, including observation	0	7	11
Consults	0	2	8
Emergency department	0	0	5
Nursing facility	0	1	7
Domiciliary, rest home (eg, boarding home), or custodial care	0	9	0
Domiciliary, rest home (eg, assisted living facility), or home care plan oversight	0	2	0
Home	0	1	8
Prolonged	2	4	2

The AMA summary is located at: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2021-03/february-2021-summary-panel-actions.pdf>

Reference: AMA Website