

# CLINICAL EXAMPLES

## 2021 OFFICE AND OTHER OUTPATIENT E/M CODES

Effective date: January 1, 2021

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AACAP CPT Coding and  
Reimbursement Committee

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# QUESTIONS?

- Please contact Karen Ferguson at [kferguson@aacap.org](mailto:kferguson@aacap.org) or 202-587-9670.
- Karen is our Committee staff person and will either answer your questions or pass them on to the Committee.

# ORIGIN OF EXAMPLES

- Appendix C of the CPT Manual contains clinical examples of E/M codes across specialties
  - An attempt was made to revise the office and other outpatient examples
  - Not enough specialties participated
    - CPT decided to hold off on example revisions for the new code definitions
    - For now, examples related to these code have been deleted
- Nonetheless, AACAP and APA collaborated on submitting revised examples (now on hold)
  - These are most of the examples cited in this webinar
  - Additional examples were written by the AACAP CPT Coding and Reimbursement Committee

# HOW TO USE THIS WEBINAR

- Have a printed copies of the Office E/M Summary Guide and the Office E/M Summary Appendix in front of you
- Pause the Webinar after each clinical example and try to deduce the proper code, then proceed to find out the answer and rationale
  - The answers are based on what is likely typical for each case
  - In practice, more or less work (e.g., more total time) could change the proper code
  - With one exception, the code selection is based on complexity of medical decision making
    - This is done because illustration of use of time criteria is likely not necessary
- The examples include mostly pediatric but also two adult cases to better illustrate how to use the E/M criteria
- It will be assumed that you know that new patients use 99202-99205 and established patients 99211-99215

# EXAMPLE #1

- Office visit for a 16-year-old female, established patient, with long-standing depression and recent intermittent moderate sadness.

Office visit for a 16-year-old female, established patient, with long-standing depression and recent intermittent moderate sadness.

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both<br>Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity<br>of Problems Addressed  | RISK of Complications and/or Morbidity or<br>Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after<br>shared medical decision making)  |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| 99211          | N/A  | N/A   | N/A   |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                      | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low  | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate   | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High   | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

## EXAMPLE #2

- Initial office visit for an adolescent urgently referred after cutting wrists superficially with suicidal intent. The adolescent reports a relapse of chronic depression and hospitalization is considered.

Initial office visit for an adolescent urgently referred after cutting wrists superficially with suicidal intent. The adolescent reports a relapse of chronic depression and hospitalization is considered.

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 complications and/or Morbidity or  
 ility from Patient Management  
 options considered but not selected after  
 shared medical decision making)  
 N/A

**MEDICAL DECISION MAKING**

|                |                 |          |   |   |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|---|---|
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward | Minimal  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>   | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low             | Low      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>   | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate        | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High            | High     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |



## EXAMPLE #3

- Office visit for 10-year-old male, established patient, with well-controlled, long-standing depression and anxiety.

# Office visit for 10-year-old male, established patient, with well-controlled, long-standing depression and anxiety.

## MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

### Elements of Medical Decision Making

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed   | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | <b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | <b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

## EXAMPLE #4

- Office visit for an established adolescent patient with a history of bipolar disorder treated with lithium; seen on an urgent basis at family's request because of severe depressive symptoms.

Office visit for an established adolescent patient with a history of bipolar disorder treated with lithium; seen on an urgent basis at family's request because of severe depressive symptoms.

and/or Morbidity or  
 Patient Management  
 (not selected after  
 shared medical decision making)

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

| Code           | Problems and Risk) | of Problems Addressed  | shared medical decision making)  |
|----------------|--------------------|--|--|
| 99211          | N/A                | N/A  | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward    | <b>Minimal</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | <b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low                | <b>Low</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | <b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate           | <b>Moderate</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High               | <b>High</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

## EXAMPLE #5

- Office visit for a 9-year-old male, established patient, with ADHD. Symptoms are well-controlled and there are no medication side effects.

Office visit for a 9-year-old male, established patient, with ADHD. Symptoms are well-controlled and there are no medication side effects.

**MEDICAL DECISION MAKING**

**Level of Medical Decision Making**  
**risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management**  
 (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed   | risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

## EXAMPLE #6

- Initial office visit for a 17-year-old male with acute onset of severe paranoid delusions and poor eating.

# Initial office visit for a 17-year-old male with acute onset of severe paranoid delusions and poor eating.

## MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

### Elements of Medical Decision Making

**Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management**  
(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed   | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | <b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | <b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |



## EXAMPLE #7

- Office visit for a 13-year-old male, established patient, with recent onset of mild-to-moderate auditory hallucinations.

Office visit for a 13-year-old male, established patient, with recent onset of mild-to-moderate auditory hallucinations.

**MEDICAL DECISION MAKING**

A problem is addressed or managed when it is evaluated or treated at the encounter by the physician or other qualified health care professional reporting the service. This includes consideration of further testing or treatment that may not be elected by virtue of risk/benefit analysis or patient/parent/guardian/surrogate choice.

Notation in the patient's medical record that another professional is managing the problem without additional assessment or care coordination documented does not qualify as being 'addressed' or managed by the physician or other qualified health care professional reporting the service. Referral without evaluation (by history, exam, or diagnostic study[ies]) or consideration of treatment does not qualify as being addressed or managed by the physician or other qualified health care professional reporting the service.

Decision Making

Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or

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## EXAMPLE #8

- Office visit for a 17-year-old male, established patient, with stable schizophrenia on clozapine who was scheduled for an urgent visit after he was noted to have new-onset neutropenia on clozapine-monitoring blood work.

Office visit for a 17-year-old male, established patient, with stable schizophrenia on clozapine who was scheduled for an urgent visit after he was noted to have new-onset neutropenia on clozapine-monitoring blood work.

Decision Making

of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management (options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

N/A

Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

|                |          |  |   |
|----------------|----------|--|---|
| 99203<br>99213 | Low      | <p><b>Low</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>• 1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>• 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate | <p><b>Moderate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>• 2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>• 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>• 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>• 1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <p><b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b></p> <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription drug management</li> <li>• Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High     | <p><b>High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>• 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <p><b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b></p> <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>• Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

## EXAMPLE #9

- Office visit for a 16-year-old female, established patient, recently raped and now complaining of moderate nightmares, poor sleeping, and jitteriness.

Office visit for a 16-year-old female, established patient, recently raped and now complaining of moderate nightmares, poor sleeping, and jitteriness.

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

**RISK OF Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management**  
 (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed  | RISK OF Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A  | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <b>Minimal</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | <b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <b>Low</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | <b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <b>Moderate</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <b>High</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

# EXAMPLE #10

- Office visit for a prescription refill for a 35-year-old female, established patient, with schizophrenia who is stable but has run out of neuroleptic and is scheduled to be seen in a week.

Office visit for a prescription refill for a 35-year-old female, established patient, with schizophrenia who is stable but has run out of neuroleptic and is scheduled to be seen in a week.

lications and/or Morbidity or from Patient Management is considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

| Code           | Problems and Risk) | of Problems Addressed   |  |
|----------------|--------------------|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A                | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward    | Minimal<br>• 1 self-limited or minor problem  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low                | Low<br>• 2 or more self-limited or minor problems;<br>• 1 stable chronic illness; or<br>• 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate           | Moderate<br>• 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;<br>• 2 or more stable chronic illnesses;<br>• 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;<br>• 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or<br>• 1 acute complicated injury | Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i><br>• Prescription drug management<br>• Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health |
| 99205<br>99215 | High               | High<br>• 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or<br>• 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function  | High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i><br>• Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity<br>• Decision regarding hospitalization                    |





## EXAMPLE #11

- Initial office visit for a child with a long history of bipolar disorder, ADHD, anxiety, and school problems, relatively stable and recently moved from another state.

Initial office visit for a child with a long history of bipolar disorder, ADHD, anxiety, and school problems, relatively stable and recently moved from another state.

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

**RISK OF COMPLICATIONS and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management**  
 (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed   | RISK OF COMPLICATIONS and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

# TIMELINE FOR NEW PATIENT CODES

| Total time (min)   | <15 | 15-29 | 30-44 | 45-59 | 60-74 | 75-89             | 90-104             | 105+   |
|--------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>New patient</b> | N/A | 99202 | 99203 | 99204 | 99205 | 99205<br>+ 1 unit | 99205<br>+ 2 units | 99205<br>+ 1 unit                              |
|                    |     |       |       |       |       | 99417             | 99417              | 99417  |
|                    |     |       |       |       |       |                   |                    | for each full increment of 15 min above 60 min |

# EXAMPLE #12

- Office visit for a 15-year-old female, established patient, who is concerned about becoming anxious on an upcoming plane trip.

# Office visit for a 15-year-old female, established patient, who is concerned about becoming anxious on an upcoming plane trip.

## MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

### Elements of Medical Decision Making

**Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management**  
(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both<br>Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity<br>of Problems Addressed  | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A  | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                      | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low  | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate   | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High   | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

# EXAMPLE #13

- Initial office visit for a 45-year-old female, last seen 4 years ago and since under the care of a different group and now back, reporting recurrence of moderate sadness.

Initial office visit for a 45-year-old female, last seen 4 years ago and since under the care of a different group and now back, reporting recurrence of moderate sadness.

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both<br>Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity<br>of Problems Addressed  | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or<br>Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after<br>shared medical decision making)  |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| 99211          | N/A  | N/A   | N/A   |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                      | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low  | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate   | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High   | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment<br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

# EXAMPLE #14

- Office visit for a 7-year-old female, established patient, with ADHD. The patient has been disruptive in school.



Office visit for a 7-year-old female, established patient, with ADHD. The patient has been disruptive in school.

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Elements of Medical Decision Making

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed  | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A  | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <p><b>Minimal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <p><b>Low</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment  |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <p><b>Moderate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <p>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</p> <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <p><b>High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <p>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</p> <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |

# HOLIDAY E/M CODING EXAMPLE HISTORY

CC:

- First visit for 6-year-old male complaining of somatic preoccupation; patient accompanied by obese, older male, wearing red coat and identified as patient's employer.

HPI:

- Patient reports unpleasant thoughts (**quality**) regarding color of nose (**location**), with distress related to past ("used to") (**duration**) names, laughing, and exclusion from "reindeer" games (**modifying factors**). One foggy (**context**) Christmas eve (**timing**) patient describes nose "sleigh" guidance for "Santa" (**modifying factors**) and is now "down in history."

HPI scoring:

Extended

# HOLIDAY E/M CODING EXAMPLE HISTORY

## PFSH

- Social: Shouts of glee from peers.

PFSH scoring:

Pertinent

## ROS

- Psychiatric: Poor sleeping on December 24<sup>th</sup>

ROS scoring:

Problem-pertinent

History scoring:

Expanded-problem focused

# HOLIDAY E/M CODING EXAMPLE EXAMINATION

- Appearance: Antlers; facial glowing ("you can even say")
- Gait/station: Stooped, ambulates using all extremities
- Speech: Repetitive singing of "carol" about deer
- Thought Process: Dysphoric rumination regarding nasal redness
- Abnormal Thoughts: Persecutory and grandiose delusions
- Mood/affect: Euphoric and labile

Examination Scoring: Expanded-problem focused

# HOLIDAY E/M CODING EXAMPLE IMPRESSIONS AND PLAN

Problem 1: Body Dysmorphic Disorder

Plan: Send for luminosity measure

Problem 2: Bipolar Disorder, Manic, with  
Psychotic Features

Plan: Support from Dasher and Dancer

# HOLIDAY E/M CODING EXAMPLE MDM SCORING

## Problem Points:

- New problem (3)
- New problem with workup (4)

Extensive

## Data Points:

- Order radiology test (1)
- History from informant other than patient (2)

Multiple

## Risk:

- One or more chronic illnesses with severe progression

High

Medical Decision Making

High complexity

# HOLIDAY E/M CODING EXAMPLE CODING

History

Expanded-problem  
focused

Examination

Expanded-problem  
focused

Medical Decision Making

High complexity

New patient

- Need 3/3 key components

CPT code

99202

## Elements of Medical Decision Making

**Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management**  
 (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)

| Code           | Level of MDM<br>(based on both Problems and Risk) | Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed   | Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management<br>(Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)   |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 99211          | N/A   | N/A   | N/A  |
| 99202<br>99212 | Straightforward                                   | <b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>  | <b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99203<br>99213 | Low   | <b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>  | <b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>   |
| 99204<br>99214 | Moderate  | <b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul> | <b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul> |
| 99205<br>99215 | High  | <b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>  | <b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b><br><br><i>Examples only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>                    |



# THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT THROUGH THE SECOND WEBINAR ON THE 2021 OFFICE AND OTHER OUTPATIENT E/M CODES!

Call Karen Ferguson with any questions

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