

# Inpatient – Reference on Documentation and Billing

Code	Level of Medical Decision-Making	Number & Complexity of Problems Addressed	Elements of Medical Decision Making Amount and/or Complexity of Data Reviewed/Analyzed	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality
Consult 99252 35 minutes	<b>Straightforward</b>	<b>Minimal</b> 1 self-limited or minor problem	<b>Minimal or None</b>	<b>Minimal risk of morbidity</b> from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
Initial 99221 40 minutes  Subsequent 99231 25 minutes  SAME DAY ADMIT & DISCHARGE 99234 45 minutes  Consult 99253 45 minutes	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b> • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems ... <i>Or</i> • 1 stable, chronic illness ... <i>Or</i> • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury ... <i>Or</i> • 1 stable, acute illness ... <i>Or</i> • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury requiring hospital inpatient or observation level of care	<b>Limited (meets at least 1 of following)</b> • Tests and documents Any combination of 2 (can be 2 from same point) – Review prior external note – Review result of each unique test* – Ordering each unique test* ... <i>Or</i> • Assessment requiring independent historian(s)	<b>Low risk of morbidity</b> from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
Initial 99222 55 minutes  Subsequent 99232 35 minutes  SAME DAY ADMIT & DISCHARGE 99235 70 minutes  Consult 99254 60 minutes	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b> • 1 or more chronic illness with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment ... <i>Or</i> • 2 or more stable chronic illnesses ... <i>Or</i> • 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis ... <i>Or</i> • 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms ... <i>Or</i> • 1 acute complicated injury	<b>Moderate (meets at least 1 of following)</b> • Tests, documents, independent historian(s) Any combination of 3 (can be 3 from same point) – Review prior external note – Review result of each unique test* – Ordering each unique test* – Assessment requiring independent historian(s) ... <i>Or</i> • Independent interpretation of tests performed by another physician or health care professional (not separately reported) ... <i>Or</i> • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)	<b>Moderate risk of morbidity</b> from additional diagnostic testing or treatment including but not limited to • Moderate risk diagnostic testing • Prescription drug management • Decision regarding minor surgery • Decision regarding elective major surgery withOUT patient or procedural risk factor • Diagnosis or treatment limited by social determinant of health
Initial 99223 75 minutes  Subsequent 99233 50 minutes  SAME DAY ADMIT & DISCHARGE 99236 85 minutes  Consult 99255 80 minutes	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b> • 1 or more chronic illness with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment ... <i>Or</i> • 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function	<b>Extensive (meets at least 2 of the following)</b> Tests, documents, independent historian(s) • Any combination of 3 (can be 3 from same point) – Review prior external note – Review result of each unique test* – Ordering each unique test* – Assessment requiring independent historian(s) ... <i>Or</i> • Independent interpretation of tests performed by another physician or health care professional (not separately reported) ... <i>Or</i> • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)	<b>High risk of morbidity</b> from additional diagnostic testing or treatment • High risk diagnostic testing • Drug Therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity • Decision regarding elective major surgery WITH patient or procedural risk factor • Decision regarding emergency major surgery • Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care because of poor prognosis • Decision regarding escalation of hospital level care • Parenteral controlled substances

\*Unique test would be a BMP, CBC, CXR, EKG

Once you've determined which category the problems, data, and risk fit into, the overall visit level is determined by the highest level reached by at least two out of three of the elements.

When using time to select service, activities provided by the billing provider, on the day of the visit, that can be included in the calculation of total time:

- preparing to see the patient ( review of tests)
- ordering medications, tests, or procedures
- documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record
- obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history
- referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not separately reported)
- independently interpreting results (not separately reported) and communicating results to the patient/ family/caregiver
- performing medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation
- care coordination (not separately reported)
- 
- counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver



## Outpatient – Reference on Documentation and Billing

Code	Level of Medical Decision-Making	Number & Complexity of Problems Addressed	Elements of Medical Decision Making Amount and/or Complexity of Data Reviewed/Analyzed	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality
<p>New 99202 15-29 minutes</p> <p>Established 99212 10-19 minutes</p> <p>Consult 99242 20 minutes</p>	Straightforward	<p>Minimal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>	Minimal or None	Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
<p>New 99203 30-40 minutes</p> <p>Established 99213 20-29 minutes</p> <p>Consult 99243 30 minutes</p>	Low	<p>Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 or more self-limited or minor problems ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 stable, chronic illness ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 stable, acute illness ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury requiring hospital inpatient or observation level of care</li> </ul>	<p>Limited (meets at least 1 of following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests and documents Any combination of 2 (can be 2 from same point) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review prior external note</li> <li>- Review result of each unique test*</li> <li>- Ordering each unique test* ...<i>Or</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Assessment requiring independent historian(s)</li> </ul>	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
<p>New 99204 45-59 minutes</p> <p>Established 99214 30-39 minutes</p> <p>Consult 99254 40 minutes</p>	Moderate	<p>Moderate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 or more chronic illness with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 2 or more stable chronic illnesses ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul>	<p>Moderate (meets at least 1 of following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests, documents, independent historian(s) Any combination of 3 (can be 3 from same point) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review prior external note</li> <li>- Review result of each unique test*</li> <li>- Ordering each unique test*</li> <li>- Assessment requiring independent historian(s) ...<i>Or</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Independent interpretation of tests performed by another physician or healthcare professional (not separately reported) ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)</li> </ul>	<p>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate risk diagnostic testing</li> <li>• Prescription drug management</li> <li>• Decision regarding minor surgery</li> <li>• Decision regarding elective major surgery withOUT patient or procedural risk factor</li> <li>• Diagnosis or treatment limited by social determinant of health</li> </ul>
<p>New 99205 60-74 minutes</p> <p>Established 99215 40-54 minutes</p> <p>Consult 99245 55 minutes</p>	High	<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 or more chronic illness with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>	<p>Extensive (meets at least 2 of the following)</p> <p>Tests, documents, independent historian(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of 3 (can be 3 from same point) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review prior external note</li> <li>- Review result of each unique test*</li> <li>- Ordering each unique test*</li> <li>- Assessment requiring independent historian(s) ...<i>Or</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Independent interpretation of tests performed by another physician or healthcare professional (not separately reported) ...<i>Or</i></li> <li>• Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)</li> </ul>	<p>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High risk diagnostic testing</li> <li>• Drug Therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>• Decision regarding elective major surgery WITH patient or procedural risk factor</li> <li>• Decision regarding emergency major surgery</li> <li>• Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care because of poor prognosis</li> <li>• Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>

\*Unique test would be a BMP, CBC, CXR, EKG

Once you've determined which category the problems, data, and risk fit into, the overall visit level is determined by the highest level reached by at least two out of three of the elements.

When using time to select service, activities provided by the billing provider, on the day of the visit, that can be included in the calculation of total time:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparing to see the patient ( review of tests)</li> <li>• obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history</li> <li>• performing medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation</li> <li>• counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ordering medications, tests, or procedures</li> <li>• referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not separately reported)</li> <li>• care coordination (not separately reported)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record</li> <li>• independently interpreting results (not separately reported) and communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver</li> </ul> |
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