



## 2021 Office/Outpatient E/M Visit Coding Changes

As a courtesy, CHCN is notifying all contracted providers of the following:

Effective January 1, 2021, new reporting guidelines will be implemented in accordance with American Medical Association (AMA) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Providers will have the flexibility on documentation for Evaluation and Management (E/M) visits, selecting codes based on either the level of medical decision-making performed OR the total time spent on the day of encounter.

Effective January 1, 2021, all claims will be processed, and reimbursed when appropriate, in accordance with these updated coding guidelines.

### Codes that are affected by the new guidelines:

- **99201 - This code has been deleted.** To report, use **99202**.
- New Patient: CPT codes 99202 – 99205
- Established Patient: CPT codes 99211 – 99215
- New or Established Patient - Prolonged services G2212
- \*Note G2212 is a new code for 2021 - **do not use this new code for services prior to January 1, 2021.**

**PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING FOR A THOROUGH EXPLANATION OF NEW GUIDELINES:** [CPT® Evaluation and Management \(E/M\) Office or Other Outpatient \(99202-99215\) and Prolonged Services \(99354, 99355, 99356, 99XXX\) Code and Guideline Changes.](#)

### Summary of Key Changes (please review the [AMA guidelines](#) for thorough explanation):

Documenting History & Physical (H&P) for Office/Outpatient E/M Services:

- Beginning January 1, 2021, only a "medically appropriate history and/or examination" will be required for all office/outpatient E/M codes.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Time</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning in 2021, total time on the date of the encounter may be used <b>instead</b> of MDM for office/outpatient EM code selection. Time has been redefined from "<b>typical face-to-face time</b>" to the sum of both <b>face-to-face and non-face-to-face services</b> of the provider on the date of the encounter.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Medical Decision Making</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The original four <b>levels</b> of MDM (straightforward, low, moderate, and high) have not changed for 2021.</li> <li>• Beginning in 2021, for both new and established patients, the level of MDM for office/outpatient E/M codes is based on 2 out of 3 elements. This differs from the current guidelines, which require 3 out of 3 elements for new patients.</li> </ul> |