

**Table 2 – CPT E/M Office Revisions  
Level of Medical Decision Making (MDM)**

**Revisions effective January 1, 2021:**

*Note: this content will not be included in the CPT 2020 code set release*



Code	Level of MDM (Based on 2 out of 3 Elements of MDM)	Elements of Medical Decision Making		
		Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed	Amount and/or Complexity of Data to be Reviewed and Analyzed <i>*Each unique test, order, or document contributes to the combination of 2 or combination of 3 in Category 1 below.</i>	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality of Patient Management
99211	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
99202 99212	Straightforward	<b>Minimal</b> • 1 self-limited or minor problem	<b>Minimal or none</b>	<b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>
99203 99213	Low	<b>Low</b> • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; or • 1 stable chronic illness; or • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury	<b>Limited</b> <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 of the 2 categories)</i> <b>Category 1: Tests and documents</b> • <b>Any combination of 2 from the following:</b> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • ordering of each unique test* or <b>Category 2: Assessment requiring an independent historian(s)</b> <i>(For the categories of independent interpretation of tests and discussion of management or test interpretation, see moderate or high)</i>	<b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>
99204 99214	Moderate	<b>Moderate</b> • 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or • 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; or • 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; or • 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or • 1 acute complicated injury	<b>Moderate</b> <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 out of 3 categories)</i> <b>Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s)</b> • <b>Any combination of 3 from the following:</b> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • Ordering of each unique test*; • Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) or <b>Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests</b> • Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported); or <b>Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation</b> • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)	<b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>  <i>Examples only:</i> • Prescription drug management • Decision regarding minor surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors • Decision regarding elective major surgery without identified patient or procedure risk factors • Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health
99205 99215	High	<b>High</b> • 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or • 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function	<b>Extensive</b> <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 2 out of 3 categories)</i> <b>Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s)</b> • <b>Any combination of 3 from the following:</b> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • Ordering of each unique test*; • Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) or <b>Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests</b> • <b>Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported);</b> or <b>Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation</b> • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source (not separately reported)	<b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>  <i>Examples only:</i> • Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity • Decision regarding elective major surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors • Decision regarding emergency major surgery • Decision regarding hospitalization • Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care because of poor prognosis