

TIME-BASED CODING

Elements of Time

Provider time includes the following activities, when performed:

- Preparing to see the patient such as reviewing the patient’s record
- Obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history
- Performing a medically appropriate history and examination
- Counseling and educating the patient, family, and/or caregiver
- Ordering prescription medications, tests, or procedures
- Referring and communicating with other health care providers when not separately reported during the visit
- Documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record
- Independently interpreting results when not separately reported
- Communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver
- Coordinating the care of the patient when not separately reported

Time-Base Calculation Guide

Total Time must fall exactly into the ranges for the code to apply

For New Patient Visits:

If total time is less than 15 minutes, coding based on time does not apply.
If total time is greater than 74 minutes, add prolonged service code as appropriate.

For Established Patient Visits:

If total time is less than 10 minutes, coding based on time does not apply.
If total time is greater than 55 minutes, add prolonged service code as appropriate.

Total Encounter Time: _____

Evaluation and Management Code: _____

Prolonged Service: No Yes: Code: _____

New Patient	Time
99202	15-29 Minutes
99203	30-44 Minutes
99204	45-59 Minutes
99205	60-74 Minutes

Established Patient	Time
99212	10-19 Minutes
99213	20-29 Minutes
99214	30-39 Minutes
99215	40-54 Minutes

Prolonged Time Calculations

*Prolonged time less than 15-minute increments are not billable.

New Patient - CPT	New Patient – CMS	Time
99205		60-74 Minutes
99205, 99417x1	99205, G2212x1	75-89 Minutes
99205, 99417x2	99205, G2212x2	90-104 Minutes
99205, 99417x3	99205, G2212x3	105-119 Minutes

Established Patient - CPT	New Patient – CMS	Time
99215		40-54 Minutes
99215, 99417x1	99215, G2212x1	55-69 Minutes
99215, 99417x2	99215, G2212x2	70-84 Minutes
99215, 99417x3	99215, G2212x3	85-99 Minutes