

WHAT IS AN MEDICAL VISIT?

All doctors use CPT codes for medical visits. A code number that corresponds to the level of care must be chosen by the doctor at the end of the visit. The fee reflects the code: the higher the code, the higher the fee. Fees are also higher for a NEW patient compared to an ESTABLISHED patient for the same level of care. Each of the following components are considered when choosing the correct code for a visit.

TIME: Face to face time spent with the patient varies from 10 to 75 minutes.

HISTORY and PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: A Minimal visit doesn't require the doctor to be present (nurse checks blood pressure). A Focused visit includes a brief history and exam of a single area or problem (visit for a blood pressure check). The Expanded visit includes related areas of the body for a single problem (uncontrolled HTN). A Detailed or Comprehensive history and physical examination includes a review of related as well as unrelated symptoms, pertinent past medical, social, and family history and a more expansive physical examination for complex or multiple problems (chest pain and confusion from malignant HTN). The outpatient visit is coded at a higher level for multiple problems.

SEVERITY: How serious and what are the consequences of the presenting medical problem?

COMPLEXITY: Medical decisions are made by considering the following issues:

- What is the most probable diagnosis?
- What are the possible diagnoses, treatment, and management options?
- What tests if any, should be ordered, reviewed, and interpreted?
- What is the risk or complication of the decision: low, moderate, or high?

COUNSELING: Discussing lifestyle changes, personal or medical dilemmas.

COORDINATION OF CARE: Discussion and planning with other health care professionals.

	MINIMAL	FOCUSED	EXPANDED	DETAILED	COMPREHENSIVE
Office NEW	99201	99202	99203	99204	99205
Home NEW	99341	99342	99343	99344	99345
Domiciliary NEW		99324	99325	99326	99327
TIME	10 min	10-20 min	25- 30 min	30-45 min	45-75 min
HISTORY	None	Focused	Expanded	Detailed	Comprehensive
PHYSICAL	None	Focused	Expanded	Detailed	Comprehensive
SEVERITY	Minimal	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
COMPLEXITY	Minor	Simple	Low	Moderate	High
Office ESTABLISHED	99211	99212	99213	99214	99215
Home ESTABLISHED		99347	99348	99349	99350
Domiciliary ESTABLISHED		99334	99335	99336	99337
TIME	5 min	10-15 min	15- 20 min	20-40 min	40-60 min
HISTORY	None	Focused	Expanded	Detailed	Comprehensive
PHYSICAL	None	Focused	Expanded	Detailed	Comprehensive
SEVERITY	Minimal	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
COMPLEXITY	Minor	Simple	Low	Moderate	High

- ◇ **Minimal** - Flu shot or brief follow up for a treatment the day before, doctor does not need to be present.
- ◇ **Focused** -single diagnosis, no testing, minimal risk. (blood pressure check, a cold or an insect bite)
- ◇ **Expanded** - two problems or stable chronic problem, limited testing, low risk. (controlled hypertension and diabetes)
- ◇ **Detailed** - single acute systemic illness or chronic illness(es) with exacerbation. (colitis, cellulitis, asthma)
- ◇ **Comprehensive** - single acute illness threatening function or chronic illness(es) with severe exacerbation. (pneumonia)