

Psychiatry Billing & Coding

Dr. Lee Moore, DNP, MEd, APRN, PMHNP-BC, CNE

1

Ease of
use

Changes effective
1/1/2021

E/M now based solely
on MDM or time

- Only includes what is medically necessary

2

Medical-decision making

- Must use if using add-on talk therapy codes (90833, 90836, etc.)
- Includes:
 - # and complexity of problems addressed in encounter
 - Amount or complexity of data to be reviewed/analyzed***
 - Risk of complications or morbidity of patient management
 - Can now include social determinants of health here

3

#/complexity of problems

- Minimal: 1 minor
- Low: 2 minor OR 1 stable chronic OR 1 acute uncomplicated
- Moderate: 1 chronic with exacerbation OR 2 stable chronic OR 1 new OR 1 acute systemic OR 1 acute complicated
- High: 1 chronic with severe exacerbation OR 1 acute or chronic life-threatening

4

Data analysis

Review	Limited: review prior notes, test results, or orders x2 OR assessment requiring independent historian
Moderate	Moderate: review prior notes, test results, orders, or assessment req independent historian x3 OR independent interpretation of tests OR discussion of management/care w/ external source
Need	Extensive: need 2 out of 3 from Moderate

5

Risk level

- Low risk – ex. No Rx
- Moderate risk – Rx, treatment limited by social DOH
- High risk – Rx requiring close monitoring, significant SI, IP referral, etc.

6

Coding

- ~~99212: 2 of the following 3: Minimal Number of Problems/Minimal Analysis/Minimal risk~~
- 99213: 2 of the following 3: Low Number of Problems/Limited Analysis/Low risk
- 99214: 2 of the following 3: Moderate Number of Problems/Moderate Analysis/Moderate risk
- 99215: 2 of the following 3: High Number of Problems/Extensive Analysis/High risk

7

Time

- Likely used more rarely, could be useful if lots of time spent but not necessarily high complexity/risk
- Includes:
 - Reviewing records/tests in preparation for a patient's visit.
 - Counseling or educating a patient, family, or caregiver.
 - Reporting test results to a patient by phone/portal.
 - Ordering medications, tests, or procedures.
 - "Pajama time" documentation work performed at home.
 - Preparing to see patient
 - Documentation

8

Time coding

- 99203 – 30-44 minutes
- 99204 – 45-59 minutes
- 99205 – 60-74 minutes
 - Can use 99417 for every 15 minutes beyond
- 99213 – 20-29 min
- 99214 – 30-39 min
- 99215 – 40-54 min
 - Can use 99417 for every 15 minutes beyond

9

Coding Example

- Office visit for 45-year-old man
- Established patient, with well-controlled long-standing depression and anxiety

10

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING	Elements of Medical Decision Making			
	Code	Level of MDM (based on both Problems and Risk)	Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)
	99211	N/A	N/A	N/A
	99202 99212	Straightforward	Minimal • 1 self-limited or minor problem	Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
	99203 99213	Low	Low • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; • 1 stable chronic illness; or • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
	99204 99214	Moderate	Moderate • 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; • 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; • 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; • 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or • 1 acute complicated injury	Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <i>Examples only:</i> • Prescription drug management • Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health
	99205 99215	High	High • 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	High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <i>Examples only:</i> • Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity • Decision regarding hospitalization

11

Coding Example

- Initial office visit for a 27-year-old woman
- Acute onset of severe paranoid delusions and poor eating.

12

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING	Elements of Medical Decision Making			
	Code	Level of MDM (based on both Problems and Risk)	Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)
	99211	N/A	N/A	N/A
	99202 99212	Straightforward	Minimal 1 self-limited or minor problem	Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
	99203 99213	Low	Low 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; 1 stable chronic illness; or 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
	99204 99214	Moderate	Moderate 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or 1 acute complicated injury	Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <i>Examples only:</i> - Prescription drug management - Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health
	99205 99215	High	High 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	High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <i>Examples only:</i> - Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity - Decision regarding hospitalization

13

Coding Example

- Office visit for 7-year-old female
- Established patient, diagnosed with F90.9
- Patient has been disruptive in school more recently.

14

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING	Elements of Medical Decision Making		
	Code	Level of MDM (based on both Problems and Risk)	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality from Patient Management (Includes options considered but not selected after shared medical decision making)
	99211	N/A	N/A
	99202 99212	Straightforward	Minimal • 1 self-limited or minor problem
	99203 99213	Low	Low • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; • 1 stable chronic illness; or • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury
	99204 99214	Moderate	Moderate • 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; • 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; • 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; • 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or • 1 acute complicated injury
	99205 99215	High	High • 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

15

Prolonged service w/o pt contact

- 99358 – 31-60 minutes
 - Must be different date than E/M service
 - Must relate to care that **has** occurred or **will** occur

16

Patient-initiated digital communications

- If the work takes under five minutes, it is not reported.
- Time worked cannot be counted twice or billed for under another, separate code.
- While the code is intended for an established patient, the problem being addressed can be new.

17

Includes:

Review of patient record and data pertinent to assessment of the problem.

Development of a management plan.

Generation of a prescription or test order.

Any subsequent online communication that does not include a separately reported E/M service.

18

Digital Communications

- If a separate E/M face-to-face visit or real-time virtual visit occurs within the seven-day period, then this online work is incorporated into the face-to-face visit and not separately reported.
- However, if the patient initiates an online digital inquiry for the *same or a related problem* within seven days of a previous E/M service, then the online digital visit is not reported.

19

Coding

- 99421 for five–10 minutes of time spent on the inquiry.
- 99422 for 11–20 minutes.
- 99423 for 21 minutes or more.

20

What else?

- 21st Century CURES Act
 - Will require open access to medical notes
 - Exceptions: security, privacy, preventing harm, infeasibility, health IT performance, content and manner, fees, and licensing

21



Questions?

22