

Using Time to Capture Problem-Focused Evaluation & Management Codes - 2019



New Patient

3 Key Components Method All three must meet or exceed requirements				Time Method*
	History	Exam	MDM	FTF Time Typical mins (range)
99201	PF	PF	Straight-forward	10 (\leq 15)
99202	EPF	EPF	Straight-forward	20 (16-25)
99203	Detailed	Detailed	Low	30 (26-37)
99204	Comp	Comp	Moderate	45 (38-53)
99205	Comp	Comp	High	60 ($>$ 53)

Comp = Comprehensive; EPF = Expanded problem focused; PF = Problem focused

Established Patient

3 Key Components Method Two of the three meet or exceed requirements				Time Method*
	History	Exam	MDM	FTF Time Typical mins (range)
99211	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	5 (≤ 7)
99212	PF	PF	Straight-forward	10 (8-12)
99213	EPF	EPF	Low	15 (13-20)
99214	Detailed	Detailed	Moderate	25 (21-33)
99215	Comp	Comp	High	40 (> 33)

*“When counseling and/or coordination of care dominates, or is more than 50% of the face-to-face time the clinician spends with the patient in the office or outpatient setting, then time may be considered the key or controlling factor to quality for a particular level of E/M services” (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2016, p. 18).

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“When counseling and/or coordination of care dominates, or is more than 50% of the face-to-face time the clinician spends with the patient in the office or outpatient setting, then time may be considered the key or controlling factor to qualify for a particular level of E/M services” (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2016, p. 18).

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2016, August). *Evaluation and Management Services*. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/eval-mgmt-serv-guide-ICN006764.pdf>