

New 2021 Outpatient Billing Changes

Your Visit is Level 4
(Established: 99214 or New: 99204)

IF

Need 2 of 3

Document appropriate history, ROS, and physical– it's no longer part of billing

New and Established Visits have the **same** billing requirements now

Explain your thought process in your Assessment and Plan

Use words like “stable, unstable, or uncontrolled” to describe problems

Residents cannot bill on time

You Addressed:

1 Undiagnosed New Problem
OR
1 Chronic Problem with Exacerbation
OR
2 Stable Chronic Illnesses

You Dealt With AND Documented:

Prescription Drug Management (refills, dose changes, start/stop a medication, continuing)
OR
Medical Management Complicated by Social Situations (ie. Food or Housing Insecurity)

Patient Complexity Was Moderate:

See middle column on the back of this page.
OR
Use Magic Wand in Epic under “Level of Service”

- If 2 of 3 are not met, your visit was likely a Level 3.
- If patient was sent to ER for severe illness, please document the reason and bill a level 5

Need 2 of 3 Columns

Elements of Medical Decision Making

Level 3

Level 4

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
99203 99213	Low	Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; or • 1 stable chronic illness; or • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury 	Limited <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 of the 2 categories)</i> <p>Category 1: Tests and documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any combination of 2 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • ordering of each unique test* <p>or</p> <p>Category 2: Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <i>(For the categories of independent interpretation of tests and discussion of management or test interpretation, see moderate or high)</i></p>	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
99204 99214	Moderate	Moderate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Moderate <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 out of 3 categories)</i> <p>Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any combination of 3 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>or</p> <p>Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional (not separately reported); eg.) Personal summary of EKG or Radiology Images <p>or</p> <p>Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional\appropriate source (not separately reported) 	Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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