

# MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

## E/M Summary Guide for Office and Other Outpatient Services

Select code(s) based on either **MEDICAL DECISION MAKING** or **TIME**

Effective January 1, 2021

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
CHILD & ADOLESCENT  
PSYCHIATRY  
WWW.AACAP.ORG

*Table simplified for use with psychiatric encounters*

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	Straightforward	<b>Minimal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 self-limited or minor problem</li> </ul>	<b>Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>
99212			
99203	Low	<b>Low</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more self-limited or minor problems;</li> <li>1 stable chronic illness; or</li> <li>1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>	<b>Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b>
99213			
99204	Moderate	<b>Moderate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment;</li> <li>2 or more stable chronic illnesses;</li> <li>1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis;</li> <li>1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or</li> <li>1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul>	<b>Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b> <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription drug management</li> <li>Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul>
99214			
99205	High	<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or</li> <li>1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>	<b>High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment</b> <p><i>Examples only:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>Decision regarding hospitalization</li> </ul>
99215			

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Total time (min)	<15	15-29	30-44	45-59	60-74	75-89	90-104	105+
<b>New patient</b>	N/A	99202	99203	99204	99205	99205 + 1 unit 99417	99205 + 2 units 99417	99205 + 1 unit 99417
	Do not report using time							for each full increment of 15 min above 60 min
Total time (min)	<10	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-54	55-69	70-84	85+
<b>Established patient</b>	N/A	99212	99213	99214	99215	99215 + 1 unit 99417	99215 + 2 units 99417	99215 + 1 unit 99417
	Do not report using time							for each full increment of 15 min above 40 min

**Physician/other qualified health care professional time includes the following activities, when performed during the calendar day of the encounter:**

- preparing to see the patient (eg, review of tests);
- obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history;
- performing a medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation;
- counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver;
- ordering medications, tests, or procedures;
- referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not separately reported);
- documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record;
- independently interpreting results (when not separately reported) and communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver; and/or
- care coordination (when not separately reported).

**99417**

**Prolonged office or other outpatient evaluation and management service(s) beyond the total time for 99205 (60 minutes) or 99215 (40 minutes); each 15 minutes**