

Office Consultations and EMGs

- Evaluation and Management (E & M) Codes are used for coding of Office Consults. *See opposite side for a list of levels and definitions*
- The American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine is in agreement that billing for a separate E & M service is permissible as long as it is properly documented.
- Correct billing and subsequent reimbursement depends largely on medical record documentation. Codes need to be selected that match the levels of the key components that are performed.
- E & M codes require a history and a physical examination. The EMG and NCS does not count as the exam.
- The history and the examination are treated independently when determining the level. A comprehensive history does not equate to a comprehensive examination.
- Issues identified with office consults for EMG's during bill reviews include:
 - A history is present, but the clinical examination is not present.
 - A history is present, but the clinical examination is insufficient, i.e. "normal".
 - The 99243 and 99244 codes frequently do not have sufficient information and must be recoded to accurately reflect what is documented.
 - Office consults that are separate from the EMG report must frequently be requested; this may delay payment.
 - An examination or history may be present, but the levels do not match. Recoding is done to the lowest level of documentation.

Level	History	Examination	Medical Decision Making
Problem Focused 99241	Chief complaint; brief history of present illness or problem	Examination limited to affected body area	Straightforward Minimal diagnoses or treatment options
Expanded Problem Focused 99242	Chief complaint; brief history of present illness; problem pertinent system review	Limited exam of affected body area and other symptomatic systems	Low Complexity Limited diagnoses or treatment options
Detailed 99243	Chief complaint; extended history of present illness and extended systems review; pertinent past, family and/or social history	Extended exam of affected area (s) and other symptomatic systems	Moderate Complexity Multiple diagnoses or treatment options
Comprehensive 99244 99245	Chief complaint; extended history of present illness; complete system review; complete past, family and social history	Complete single organ system specialty exam or general multi-system exam	High Complexity Extensive diagnoses or treatment options

SOURCES:

E/M Fast Finder. Salt Lake City, UT: Ingenix, 2003; 2204.

Orme, N; Hall, D. Ingenix Coding Lab: Understanding E/M coding. Salt Lake City, UT: Ingenix, 2003.

AMA Current Procedural Terminology CPT 2009 Professional Edition

AANEM. Guidelines and Practice Parameters. Online. Internet Accessed 27/2/02; 20/8/04; 13/12/04; 22/08/07 Available WWW: <http://www.aanem.net>

Levinson, S.R. Practical E/M Chicago, IL: American Medical Association, 2006.



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