

# 2021 E&M Coding Tool

Adapted from: Table 2 –CPT E/M Office Revisions/Level of Medical Decision Making (MDM)  
<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-06/cpt-revised-mdm-grid.pdf>  
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TODAY'S PROBLEM LEVEL		TODAY'S DATA LEVEL		TODAY'S RISK LEVEL		TODAY'S TIME		TODAY'S VISIT	
<i>(Circle one)</i> <b>LEVEL:</b> 2 3 4 5		<i>(Circle one)</i> <b>LEVEL:</b> 2 3 4 5		<i>(Circle one)</i> <b>LEVEL:</b> 2 3 4 5		<b>TOTAL TIME ON DOS:</b> _____		<i>(Circle one)</i> <b>LEVEL:</b> 2 3 4 5	
<b>Number &amp; Complexity</b> of problems addressed		<b>Amount and/or Complexity of Data</b> Each unique test, order, or document contributes to a combination of 2 or of 3 in Category 1 below.		<b>Risk</b> of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment		<b>Time</b> See reverse side for time calculation tool based on activities		Final Level assigned, based on MDM or Total Time	
<b>2</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b> 1 self-limited or minor problem	<b>LEVEL 2</b> Minimal or none	<b>LEVEL 2</b> Minimal risk	<b>LEVEL 2</b> 15–29 mins 10–19 mins	NEW: 99202 EST: 99212	<b>ABOUT THIS TOOL</b> This tool is a guide for leveling outpatient E&M services using Medical Decision Making (orange) *OR* Time (blue). The reverse may be used to assist with capturing all applicable activities in the clinician's time total.			
	<b>3</b>	<b>LEVEL 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 1 stable chronic illness; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury</li> </ul>	<b>LEVEL 3</b> <i>One category required</i> <b>CATEGORY 1:</b> Any 2 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of <b>prior external note(s) from each unique source;</b></li> <li>▪ Ordering of <b>each unique test or</b></li> <li>▪ Review of the <b>result(s) of each unique test;</b></li> </ul> <b>CATEGORY 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment requiring an independent historian(s)</li> </ul> <i>For independent interpretation and discussion of management or test interpretation, see Level 4 or 5.</i>	<b>LEVEL 3</b> Low risk	<b>LEVEL 3</b> 30–44 mins 20–29 mins		NEW: 99203 EST: 99213		
		<b>4</b>	<b>LEVEL 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 1 acute complicated injury</li> </ul>	<b>LEVEL 4</b> <i>One category required</i> <b>CATEGORY 1:</b> Any 3 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of <b>prior external note(s) from each unique source;</b></li> <li>▪ Ordering of <b>each unique test or</b></li> <li>▪ Review of the <b>result(s) of each unique test;</b></li> <li>▪ Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <b>or</b></li> </ul> <b>CATEGORY 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Independent interpretation of test performed by another MD/ QHCP/appropriate source (not separately reported); <b>or</b></li> </ul> <b>CATEGORY 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion of management or test interpretation with external MD/QHCP/appropriate source (not separately reported)</li> </ul>	<b>LEVEL 4</b> Moderate Risk  <b>EXAMPLES ONLY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prescription drug management</li> <li>▪ Decision regarding minor surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors</li> <li>▪ Decision regarding elective major surgery without identified patient or procedure risk factors</li> <li>▪ Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health</li> </ul>		<b>LEVEL 4</b> 45–59 mins 30–39 mins	NEW: 99204 EST: 99214	
			<b>5</b>	<b>LEVEL 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; <b>or</b></li> <li>▪ 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function</li> </ul>	<b>LEVEL 5</b> <i>Two categories required</i> <b>CATEGORY 1:</b> Any 3 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of <b>prior external note(s) from each unique source;</b></li> <li>▪ Ordering of <b>each unique test or</b></li> <li>▪ Review of the <b>result(s) of each unique test;</b></li> <li>▪ Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <b>or</b></li> </ul> <b>CATEGORY 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Independent interpretation of test performed by another MD/ QHCP (not separately reported); <b>or</b></li> </ul> <b>CATEGORY 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion of management or test interp with external MD/ QHCP/appropriate source (not separately reported)</li> </ul>		<b>LEVEL 5</b> High Risk  <b>EXAMPLES ONLY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity</li> <li>▪ Decision re: elective major surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors</li> <li>▪ Decision re: emergency major surgery</li> <li>▪ Decision re: hospitalization</li> <li>▪ Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care due to poor prognosis</li> </ul>	<b>LEVEL 5</b> 60–74 mins 40–54 mins	NEW: 99205 EST: 99215

**NOTES:**

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# 2021 E&M Coding Tool

TIME	
Activities	Time Spent (MINUTES) <small>Include ALL minutes clinician spent on patient on DOS</small>
<b>Pre-Visit</b>	
Reviewing notes, results, correspondence, reports <i>(Note sources, dates)</i>	
Other:	
<b>Visit</b>	
History from patient and others <i>(Note sources)</i>	
History, examination, discussion, counseling, education, planning	
Ordering, referrals, documenting	
Planning, ordering, referrals	
Other:	
<b>Post-Visit</b>	
Documenting	
Reviewing and communicating results	
Independent interpretation of tests <i>(not separately billed)</i>	
Care coordination <i>(not separately billed)</i>	
Other:	
<b>TOTAL TIME ON DOS</b>	

REFERENCE			
New Patient		Established Patient	
<b>LEVEL 2</b>			
15-29 mins	99202	10-19 mins	99212
<b>LEVEL 3</b>			
30-44 mins	99203	20-29 mins	99213
<b>LEVEL 4</b>			
45-59 mins	99204	30-39 mins	99214
<b>LEVEL 5</b>			
60-74 mins	99205	40-54 mins	99215



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