

Billing 99202 - 99215 Based on Time and Prolonged Care

Instead of using MDM to determine your code level, CPT allows codes 99202 – 99215 to be selected on total time spent on the date of service by the billing clinician. The time counted can be spent on face-to-face and non-face-to-face services provided for the care of the patient.

Activities that you **can count toward total time** include:

- 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
- Documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record
- Independently interpreting results and communication of results to patient/family/caregiver
- Care coordination

There are some activities that **cannot be counted** in your total time.

- Separately reported tests or procedures
 - If you are billing for an additional procedure on the same DOS, you must not count the time spent performing the procedure in the time. Best practice would be to document the time spent performing the procedure and time spent caring for the patient on the DOS.
- Staff time
 - Only the time of the billing clinician can be counted. Time spent by a nurse giving results to a patient cannot be counted as billable time.
- Any element performed on a different date.
 - Only time spent on the calendar date of the encounter can be counted in total time.

Time documentation should include:

- The **total time** spent on the calendar date by the clinician caring for the patient.
- A **narrative** description of the services included in the time spent.

Time Threshold for Time Based Coding			
New Patient		Established Patient	
99201	Deleted for 2021	99211	Minimal
99202	15 – 29 Minutes	99212	10 – 19 Minutes
99203	30 – 44 Minutes	99213	20 – 29 Minutes
99204	45 – 59 Minutes	99214	30 – 39 Minutes
99205	60 – 74 Minutes	99215	40 – 54 Minutes