

LEVEL 4 REFERENCE CARD

99214 MAJOR CRITERIA (document 2 of 3 of the following)

- Detailed history (document all 3 of the following)
 - HPI: at least 4 elements for acute problems, or updates on at least 3 chronic/inactive problems
 - ROS: 2 to 9 systems or body areas
 - PFSH: 1 element
- Detailed physical exam: 12 bulleted elements from at least 2 systems or body areas (see reverse side of card)
- Medical decision making of moderate complexity (document 2 of 3 of the following)

A. Diagnosis and management (3 points needed)	Points
Self-limited or minor problem (such as cold, insect bite or tinea) (max. of 2)	1
Established problem, stable/improved (no max.)	1
Established problem, uncontrolled/worse (no max.)	2
New problem, no further work-up (max. of 1)	3
New problem, further work-up needed	4

B. Data (3 points needed)	Points
Review/order lab(s) (CPT 80002-89399)	1
Review/order radiology service(s) (CPT 70010-79999)	1
Review/order medical diagnostic study(s) (CPT 90701-99199)	1
Discuss test/study with performing physician	1
Make decision to obtain old records	1
Review and summarize old records, or obtain history from someone other than patient	2
Directly visualize and independently interpret an image, tracing or specimen	2

C. Risk ("moderate risk" needed; any of the following examples qualify)
Prescription drug management (e.g., new prescription or continuation of old prescription)
Chronic illness with mild exacerbation, progression or side effect
Two or more stable chronic illnesses
Undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis (e.g., breast lump)
Acute illness with systemic symptoms (e.g., pyelonephritis, pneumonitis or colitis)
Acute complicated injury (e.g., concussion)
Stress test
Diagnostic endoscopy without risk factors
Minor surgery with identified risk factors
IV fluids with additives
Closed treatment of fracture or dislocation without manipulation

99214 vs. 99204

For 99214 and the new-patient visit code 99204, the medical decision making and HPI requirements are the same. However, 99214 requires a detailed history and physical exam while 99204 requires a comprehensive history and physical exam, and 99214 requires only two of the three major criteria while 99204 requires all three of the major criteria. These differences are summarized below.

Element	99214	99204
Major criteria (history, physical exam, medical decision making)	2 of 3	3 of 3
ROS (part of history)	2	10
PFSH (part of history)	1	3
Physical exam	12 bullets from at least 2 systems	18 bullets from at least 9 systems

General Multisystem Examination

Constitutional

- Check vitals: 3 of 7 (BP/s-BP/pulse/resp/temp/wt/ht)
- Inspect general appearance

Eyes

- Inspect conjunctivae and lids
- Examine pupils and irises
- Examine optic discs and posterior segments

Ears, Nose, Mouth and Throat

- Assess external appearance of ears and nose
- Examine exterior auditory canals and tympanic membranes
- Assess hearing
- Inspect nasal mucosa, septum and turbinates
- Inspect lips, teeth and gums
- Examine oropharynx: oral mucosa, salivary glands, hard and soft palates, tongue, tonsils and posterior pharynx

Neck

- Examine neck
- Examine thyroid

Respiratory

- Assess respiratory efforts
- Conduct chest percussion
- Palpate chest
- Auscultate lungs

Cardiovascular

- Palpate heart
- Auscultate heart with notations of abnormal sounds and murmurs
- Examine carotid arteries
- Examine abdominal aorta
- Examine femoral arteries
- Examine pedal pulses
- Assess extremities for edema/varicosities

Chest (breasts)

- Inspect breasts
- Palpate breasts and axillae

GI (abdomen)

- Examine abdomen with notation of presence of masses or tenderness
- Examine liver and spleen
- Determine presence or absence of hernia
- Examine anus, perineum and rectum including sphincter tone, presence of hemorrhoids and rectal masses
- Obtain stool sample for occult blood testing

Genitourinary – Male

- Examine scrotal contents
- Examine penis
- Conduct digital rectal exam of prostate gland

Genitourinary – Female

Conduct pelvic exam, which may include examination of the following:

- External genitalia and vagina
- Urethra
- Bladder
- Cervix
- Uterus
- Adnexa/parametria

Lymphatic

Palpate lymph nodes in at least two areas:

- Neck
- Axillae
- Groin
- Other

Musculoskeletal

- Examine gait and station
 - Inspect/palpate digits and nails
- Examine joints, bones and muscles of at least one of the following: 1) head and neck; 2) spine, ribs and pelvis; 3) right upper extremity; 4) left upper extremity; 5) right lower extremity; and 6) left lower extremity. Examination of a given area may include the following:
- Inspect/palpate
 - Assess range of motion
 - Assess stability
 - Assess muscle strength and tone

Skin

- Inspect skin and subcutaneous tissue
- Palpate skin and subcutaneous tissue

Neurologic

- Test cranial nerves with notation of deficits
- Examine deep tendon reflexes (note pathological reflexes)
- Examine sensation

Psychiatric

- Describe patient's judgment and insight
- Assess orientation to time, place and person
- Assess recent and remote memory
- Assess mood and affect

