

- Focused physical examination of the patient with emphasis on:
 - Mouth, jaw, oropharynx, neck and airway for Mallampati score assessment;
 - Chest and lungs;
 - Heart and circulation;
- Vital signs, including heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and oxygenation with end tidal CO₂ when indicated;
- Review of any pre-sedation diagnostic tests;
- Completion of a pre-sedation assessment form (with an American Society of Anesthesiologists [ASA] Physical Status classification);
- Patient informed consent;
- Immediate pre-sedation assessment prior to first sedating doses; and
- Initiation of IV access and fluids to maintain patency.

Intraservice Work

Intraservice time is used to determine the appropriate CPT code to report moderate sedation services:

- Begins with the administration of the sedating agent(s);
- Ends when the procedure is completed, the patient is stable for recovery status, and the physician or other qualified health care professional providing the sedation ends personal continuous face-to-face time with the patient;
- Includes ordering and/or administering the initial and subsequent doses of sedating agents;
- Requires continuous face-to-face attendance of the physician or other qualified health care professional;
- Requires monitoring patient response to the sedating agents, including:
 - Periodic assessment of the patient;
 - Further administration of agent(s) as needed to maintain sedation; and
 - Monitoring of oxygen saturation, heart rate, and blood pressure.

If the physician or other qualified health care professional who provides the sedation services also performs the procedure supported by sedation (99151, 99152, 99153), the physician or other qualified health care professional will supervise and direct an independent trained observer who will assist in monitoring the patient's level of consciousness and physiological status throughout the procedure.

Postservice Work

The postservice activities required for moderate sedation are included in the work described by each of these codes (99151, 99152, 99153, 99155, 99156, 99157) and are

not reported separately. Once continuous face-to-face time with the patient has ended, additional face-to-face time with the patient is not added to the intraservice time, however, it is considered as part of the postservice work. The following postservice work components are not included, when determining intraservice time for reporting:

- Assessment of the patient's vital signs, level of consciousness, neurological, cardiovascular, and pulmonary stability in the post-sedation recovery period;
- Assessment of the patient's readiness for discharge following the procedure;
- Preparation of documentation regarding sedation service; and
- Communication with family/caregiver regarding sedation service.

Postservice work/times are not used to select the appropriate code.

Do not report 99151, 99152, 99153, 99155, 99156, 99157 in conjunction with 94760, 94761, 94762.

Codes 99151, 99152, 99155, 99156 are reported for the first 15 minutes of intraservice time providing moderate sedation. Codes 99153, 99157 are reported for each additional 15 minutes, in addition to the code for the primary service. ◀

▶(99143, 99144, 99145 have been deleted. To report moderate sedation services provided by the same physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, see 99151, 99152, 99153) ◀

▶(99148, 99149, 99150 have been deleted. To report moderate sedation services provided by a physician or other qualified health care professional other than the physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, see 99155, 99156, 99157) ◀

99151

Moderate sedation services provided by the same physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient's level of consciousness and physiological status; initial 15 minutes of intraservice time, patient younger than 5 years of age

➔ CPT Changes: An Insider's View 2017

99152

initial 15 minutes of intraservice time, patient age 5 years or older

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