



BCA Recipe Card - Must meet TWO of THREE categories:			
Final E/M Code	Problems: Number/Complexity	Data: Amount/Complexity	Risk of Complication
99202/99212 Straightforward	1 self-limited or minor problem	None	None Rest, Ice, Elevation
99203/99213 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2+ Self-limited or minor illness •1 Stable chronic •1 Acute uncomplicated 	Limited: 1 of 2 data categories required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2 Unique tests or documents OR •1 Independent historian assessment 	Low <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •OTC Meds •PT, OT
99204/99214 Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1+ Progressing chronic, exacerbation or treatment SE •2+ Stable chronic •1 Undiagnosed new problem •1 Acute illness w/systemic symptoms •1 Acute complicated injury 	Moderate: 1 of 3 data categories required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3 Unique tests, external notes from unique source or ind historian assessment •Test interp not separately reported by clinician •Mgmt discussion or test interp w/external clinician/appropriate source 	Moderate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rx drug mgmt •Minor surgery/procedure decision w/patient or procedure risk factors •Major surgery decision w/o identified patient or procedure risk factors •SDoH significantly limiting dx or mgmt
99205/99215 High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1+ Chronic illness w/severe exacerbation or treatment SE •1 Acute or chronic or injury posing a threat to life/ bodily function 	Extensive: 2 of 3 data categories required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3 Unique tests, external notes from unique source or ind historian assessment •Test interp not separately reported by clinician •Mgmt discussion or test interp w/external clinician/appropriate source 	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Intensive monitoring for drug therapy for toxicity •Elective major surgery decision w/identified patient or procedure risk factors •Emergent major surgery decision •Decision regarding hospitalization •DNR or de-escalation of care d/t poor prognosis

Time-Based Encounters		
Final E/M Code	Established Patient Time Range	Allowable Activities for Time performed on date of service
99212	10-19 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-visit work: Review of lab/test results, consult notes, discharge summary • History: Review of separately obtained history e.g. caregiver, guardian, witness • Face to face: Time spent on medically necessary exam and/or evaluation • Education or counseling of patient/family/caregiver • Orders: labs, xrays, other diagnostic tests or procedures, medications • Referral/Communication with other health care professionals • Documentation: clinical information documentation in the EMR/health record • Independent Results Interp: results/communication to patient/family/caregiver • Coordination of care not separately reported
99213	20-29 mins	
99214	30-39 mins	
99215	40-54 mins	
New Patient	Time Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation: clinical information documentation in the EMR/health record • Independent Results Interp: results/communication to patient/family/caregiver • Coordination of care not separately reported
99202	15-29 mins	
99203	30-44 mins	
99204	45-59 mins	
99205	60-74 mins	
Note: Time spent performing separately reported services, e.g., procedures, EKGs, chronic care management activities, etc. cannot be counted		
Reminder: Don't count time by: Ancillary staff, Resident/student, time on another DOS or procedure time		

This coding tool is based off of AMA guidelines as published in CPT© 2021 Professional Edition. This card is intended to be used as a quick reference tool. Please see AMA guidelines for full details. Training on the use of this tool is available from BCA, Inc. Please visit us at codinghelp.com

