2021 Evaluation and Management Changes: New Prolonged Services Codes

A major component of the 2021 Evaluation and Management (E/M) changes are the introduction of CPT® code 99417 and HCPCS code G2212 effective January 1st, 2021. Both codes describe a prolonged office or other evaluation and management service that requires at least 15 minutes or more of time either with OR without direct patient contact on the date of the primary E/M service (either CPT® codes 99205 or 99215).

**CPT® Code Description for 99417**

99417-Prolonged office or other outpatient evaluation and management service(s) (beyond the total time of the primary procedure which has been selected using total time), requiring total time with or without direct patient contact beyond the usual service, on the date of the primary service; each 15 minutes (List separately in addition to codes 99205, 99215 for office or other outpatient Evaluation and Management services.)

**HCPCS Code Description for G2212**

G2212- Prolonged office or other outpatient evaluation and management service(s) beyond the maximum required time of the primary procedure which has been selected using total time on the date of the primary service; each additional 15 minutes by the physician or qualified healthcare professional, with or without direct patient contact (List separately in addition to CPT codes 99205, 99215 for office or other outpatient evaluation and management services)

**Prolonged Services Reporting**

Both CPT® code 99417 and HCPCS code G2212 may only be reported in conjunction with 99205 or 99215 if the codes were selected based on the time alone and not medical decision making. A service of less than 15 minutes should not be reported.

HCPCS code G2212 should only be reported for Medicare claims unless otherwise directed by a private payer. Be sure to check the payer's policy for appropriate reporting guidelines.

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### CPT® Code 99417 Reporting Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 75 minutes</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
<td>Less than 55 minutes</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-89 minutes</td>
<td>99205 and 99417 (1x)</td>
<td>55-69 minutes</td>
<td>99215 and 99417 (1x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-104 minutes</td>
<td>99205 and 99417 (2x)</td>
<td>70-84 minutes</td>
<td>99215 and 99417 (2x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105 or more</td>
<td>99205 and 99417 (3x or more for each additional 15 min)</td>
<td>85 or more</td>
<td>99215 and 99417 (3x or more for each additional 15 min)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: “CPT® Evaluation and Management (E/M) Office or Other Outpatient (99202-99215) and Prolonged Services (99354, 99355, 99356, 99XXX) Code and Guideline Changes.”
Decision Tree for Prolonged Services (99417 or G2212)

Was the primary evaluation and management service CPT code 99205 or 99215?

Yes → Was CPT code 99205 or 99215 selected based on time and NOT medical decision making?

Yes → If the code was selected based on medical decision making, 99417 or G2212 may not be reported.

No → If selecting a code based on time, refer to the time intervals* and chose the applicable service. (CPT codes 99202-99204 or 99211-99214)

No → Was the primary evaluation and management service CPT code 99205 or 99215?

Yes → If the service was less than 15 minutes, 99417 or G2212 may not be reported.

No → If the service is 15 minutes or more, report 99417 or G2212 with the applicable primary code (99205 or 99215) and then the appropriate number of units for each 15 minutes of service.

No → Reminder: HCPCS code G2212 should only be reported for Medicare claims unless otherwise directed.
Additional Changes to Prolonged Services Codes

There have also been amendments to the guidelines for other prolonged services codes 99354-99357 and 99358-99359.

Since CPT® code 99417 was created to describe a 15-minute prolonged office or other evaluation and management services (with or without direct patient contact), CPT codes 99354 and 99358 can no longer be reported with CPT® codes 99201-99215 in 2021.

If CPT® codes 99202-99204 and 99211-99214 are chosen based on time ("2021 Evaluation and Management Changes: Selecting a Code Based on Time"), the E/M service would be selected based on the appropriate time intervals. If a prolonged service occurs past the intervals for 99205 and 99215, then CPT® code 99417 would be reported for each 15-minute unit of service.

Resource

CPT® Evaluation and Management (E/M) Office or Other Outpatient (99202-99215) and Prolonged Services (99354, 99355, 99356, 99417) Code and Guideline Changes