2023 Evaluation and Management Changes
Guideline Updates, Clarifications, and Corrections

This resource highlights updates to, clarifications of, and corrections for the 2023 Evaluation and Management services guidelines. Please refer to the AMA’s 2023 CPT E/M Descriptors and Guidelines for more details and the revisions in their entirety.

General Guideline Updates for Evaluation and Management Services

History and/or Examination

The new guidelines include an update to history and/or examination, stating E/M codes having levels of service include a medically appropriate history and/or physical examination when performed, falling in line with the guidelines previously established for the office and other outpatient E/M services. In 2023, history and exam are not used to determine the level of service for E/M codes.

Level of Service selection based on Medical Decision Making

As level of service is now determined by medical decision making or time, the definitions for history, social history, and system review no longer apply. However, the term “presenting problems” is defined in greater detail by the number and complexity of problems addressed. The definitions may be found in the “Selecting a Level of Service based on Medical Decision Making” section of the guidelines.

Clarifications and updates made in the 2021 technical corrections were officially added to the 2023 guidelines with additional revisions and additions. You can find information covering the 2021 corrections as well as the new revisions for 2023 on the Coding and Reimbursement section of ASCO Practice Central.

Medical Decision-Making Guideline Updates

Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed at the Encounter

Risk corresponds directly to the risk from the condition and is separate from the risk of management. The problem addressed is the condition being managed by the reporting physician or other qualified healthcare professional on the date of the encounter. For hospital inpatient and observation services, the reason addressed at the encounter may not be the reason for admission or continued stay. Refer to the ASCO resource “2023 Evaluation and Management Changes: Medical Decision Making Simplified” for a comprehensive look into the new and revised MDM definitions for 2023.

Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality of Patient Management

Risk, as it applies to the risk of complications and/or morbidity or mortality of patient management, is directly related to risk resulting from patient management at an encounter. It is associated with the risk of complications and morbidity and/or mortality as a consequence of the problems addressed at the encounter. In addition, risk relates to patient management decisions made by the reporting physician or other qualified healthcare professional as part of the encounter. This is separate from the risk of the condition itself.

New

“Parenteral controlled substances” is included as a new example for 2023. This includes medications like injectable Morphine as well as injectable and infused pre-medications like Ativan used in the oncology setting.

Revisions

The decision regarding hospitalization now includes added language regarding “escalation of hospital level care.” This applies to situations such as a move from the medical surgical floor to an intensive setting for example.

Questions

Inquiries regarding the 2023 E/M changes (or any other coding and billing questions) can be sent to ASCO staff at practice@asco.org.

Resources

American Medical Association

2023 CPT E/M descriptors and guidelines

American Society of Clinical Oncology

2023 E/M Overview
2023 E/M Changes: Selecting a Code Based on Time
2023 E/M Changes: Medical Decision Making Simplified
2023 E/M Changes: Inpatient, Observation, Discharge
2023 E/M Changes: Consultations
2021 E/M Changes Updates and Clarifications

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

2023 PFS Proposed Rule