

**- MEMORANDUM -**

DATE: November 30, 2020  
 TO: Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Quality Assurance Coordinators  
 FROM: Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBH) Quality Assurance Office  
 SUBJECT: **Immediate Action Needed – Changes to Evaluation and Management (E/M) Service Billing Codes and Rules**

The following required changes below applies to Providers that have their own Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. For Providers that use the County’s Billing and EHR systems (InSyst and Clinician’s Gateway), those systems will be updated with these changes.

Changes include:

- Required implementation date of January 1, 2021;
- Deletion of CPT Code 99201;
- Addition of the add-on prolonged service Code 544-99417 (15 minutes);
- Duration time-frame changes to CPT® Codes 99202 – 99205 and 99211 – 99215 (see below and attached 2021 CPT E/M requirements).

***New Patient E/M Code Time Intervals***

InSyst Code	CPT® Code	Description— <b>New Patient</b> Codes	Total Time
546	99202	E/M New OFC Expanded	15-29 minutes
547	99203	E/M New OFC Detail	30-44 minutes
548	99204	E/M New OFC Comprehensive	45-59 minutes
549	99205	E/M New OFC Complex	60-74 minutes
544	99417	For 75 minutes or longer, drop 99205 to 60 minutes and for each additional <u>full 15</u> minutes beyond 60 minutes, add one each	Full 15 minutes





		of the code 99417. Add any additional minutes, that are 14 or less, to the last add on code (or to 99205 if no add-on code).	
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***Established E/M Code Time Intervals***

InSyst Code	CPT® Code	Description— <b>Established Patient Codes</b>	Total Time
641	99211	E/M EST OFC Simple	<10 minutes
643	99212	E/M EST OFC Expanded	10-19 minutes
644	99213	E/M EST OFC Detail	20-29 minutes
645	99214	E/M EST OFC Comprehensive	30-39 minutes
646	99215	E/M EST OFC Complex	40-54 minutes
544	99417	For 55 minutes or longer, drop 99215 to 40 minutes and for each additional full 15 minutes beyond 40 minutes, add one each of the code 99215. Add any additional minutes, that are 14 or less, to the last add on code (or to 99215 if no add-on code).	Full 15 minutes

**Note:** Within a couple of weeks a memo will be sent out that goes into the E/M change requirements in detail.

**Save the Date:** Training on E/M Changes for Prescribers and QA Coordinators & Billers, Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

