



ALCOHOL, DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
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## Memorandum

To: Master Contract Providers

From: Kyree Klimist, QA Associate Administrator

Date: March 5, 2013

RE: **Evaluation and Management Coding Training Update**

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QA and the Office of the Medical Director recognize that the new use of the Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes based on complexity has been a challenge for many people.

Through much discussion and consultation, it has been decided that the percentage of time spent in counseling and coordination of care can often be used to determine which E/M code to choose. Please see the 2013 CPT Manual, page 10 for reference.

Please understand that the documentation standards to code in this way have changed. Your notes must justify and explicitly state the content of the counseling and coordination of care activities and it must be sufficient to warrant the level of code (time) you are choosing.

QA will be providing training on choosing the appropriate E/M codes where "Counseling and Coordination of Care" predominate the session, how it differs from the use of complexity and the documentation requirements for this choice. We invite you to register your MD, Psychiatrist, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistant staff.

Please join us on:

Friday, March 15, 2013

10:30 am – 12:00pm

ACBHCS Administration

2000 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland

Gail Steele Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Register Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EM3-15-13>



A Department of Alameda County Health Care Service Agency

**Resources:**

*A brief reminder that there is a difference between counseling and therapy and that is defined in the CPT Manual (pg. 6 and pg. 485)*

QA would also recommend these webinars to further your knowledge and abilities in the use of E/M codes based on complexity:

- [http://www.aacap.org/cs/business\\_of\\_practice/reimbursement\\_for\\_practitioners](http://www.aacap.org/cs/business_of_practice/reimbursement_for_practitioners)
- <http://www.apaeducation.org/ihtml/application/student/interface.apa/index.htm>

As an additional resource, you may visit QA's training page, on the Provider's website, <http://www.acbhcs.org/providers/QA/Training.htm>, where we will post the training handouts from this training and find additional information regarding QA's trainings. The post will occur by Friday, March 22, 2013. Furthermore, if you have training or E/M code questions, you may send them to [QAOffice@acbhcs.org](mailto:QAOffice@acbhcs.org).