



Prolonged Service Codes

Prolonged Service Description

Prolonged Service codes 99417 and 99418, are used when a physician or other qualified health care professional provides prolonged service involving direct (face-to-face) patient contact or without direct (non-face-to-face) patient contact that is beyond the highest level of service in either the inpatient or outpatient setting.

Documentation

- Document and identify total time with or without direct patient contact beyond the usual service, on the date of the primary service or the non-face-to-face services that occur on a different date than the face-to-face visit.
 - Example:** *“I personally spent ____ minutes on the calendar day of the encounter, including pre and post visit work.”*
- The medical record must be appropriately and sufficiently documented by the physician or qualified health care professional to show that they personally provided the direct face-to-face time with the patient.
- Documentation must support or easily infer how the time was spent. Include descriptions to support the extended service time.

Documentation Examples:

- *“I spoke to cardiology ...”*
- *“I received the past medical chart the patient brought with him from Florida.”*
- *“I spoke to the patients Social Worker at the group home about the need for a higher level of care ...”*
- *“I spoke at length today with Ms. Jones and her family about the prognosis and treatment options. I contacted the Finger Lakes infusion center to make sure they could schedule her on Fridays only.”*

Time: Personal time spent on the calendar date of the encounter activities include:

- Preparing to see the patient (e.g., review of tests)
- Obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history
- Performing a medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation
- Counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver
- Ordering medications, tests, or procedures
- Referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not separately reported)
- Documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record
- Documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record
- Care coordination (not separately reported)

Threshold Times for Code 99417 beyond the usual service: For prolonged E&M services on the date of an outpatient service, home or residence service, or cognitive assessment and care plan, use 99417.

New Outpatient + Prolonged Services				
Code	Not reported separately	99205 + 99417 x1	99205 + 99417 x2	99205 + 99417 x3 or more for each additional 15 minutes
Time (minutes)	less than 75	75-89	90-104	105 or more

Established Outpatient + Prolonged Services				
Code	Not reported separately	99215 + 99417 x1	99215 + 99417 x2	99215 + 99417 x3 or more for each additional 15 minutes
Time (minutes)	less than 55	55-69	70-84	85 or more

Threshold Times for Code 99418 beyond the usual service: For Inpatient/Observation or nursing facility E&M prolonged services on the date, use 99418 is only used when the primary service highest-level has been exceeded by 15 minutes.

Initial Hospital Inpatient/Observation Care + Prolonged Services			
Code	99223	99223 + 99418 x1	99223 + 99418 x2
Time (minutes)	76-89 No Prolonged code < 90 min	90-105	106-121

Subsequent Hospital Inpatient/Observation Care + Prolonged Services			
Code	99233	99233 + 99418 x1	99233 + 99418 x2
Time (minutes)	51-64 No Prolonged code < 65 min	65-80	81-96

Table of Threshold Time for Primary Services Requiring Prolonged Add-on Code

This table helps avoid any confusion over code choice for Medicare and private payer patients, and to calculate at which point the service will require a prolonged E&M services add-on code.

Primary E&M Service	E&M Service	CPT Prolonged Service Codes	CPT Threshold	CMS Prolonged Service Codes	CMS Threshold
99205	New patient office or other outpatient services	+99417	75 mins.	G2212	89 mins.
99215	Established patient office or other outpatient services	+99417	55 mins.	G2212	69 mins.
99223	Initial hospital inpatient/observation care	+99418	90 mins.	G0316	90 mins.
99233	Subsequent hospital inpatient/observation care	+99418	65 mins.	G0316	65 mins.
99236	Admission and discharge on the same date	+99418	110 mins.	G0316	110 mins.
99245	Office or other outpatient <u>consultation</u> for new or established patient	+99417	70 mins.	N/A	N/A
99255	Inpatient/observation <u>consultation</u> for a new or established patient	+99418	95 mins.	N/A	N/A
99306	Initial nursing facility care	+99418	60 mins.	G0317	95 mins.
99310	Subsequent nursing facility care	+99418	60 mins.	G0317	85 mins.
99345	New patient home or residence visit	+99417	90 mins.	G0318	140 mins.
99350	Established patient home or residence visit	+99417	75 mins.	G0318	110 mins.

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