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Introduction to Evaluation & Management Coding

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Objectives

After this session, participants should:

- Be familiar on how to document E&M services to communicate successfully a patient encounter;
- Be able to identify the various E&M codes per level of service; and
- Be able to distinguish between E&M and Psychiatric procedure services in the CPT manual

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Most frequently used E/M codes

Category	Code Numbers
▶ Outpatient Services	
New patients	99201–99205
Established patients	99211–99215
▶ Consultations	
Outpatient consultations	99241–99245
Inpatient consultations	99251–99255
▶ Emergency Department Services	99281–99288

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Most frequently used E/M codes

Category	Code Numbers
▶Hospital Observational Services	
Observation Care Discharge Service	99217
Initial Observation Care	99218–99220
Subsequent Observation Care	99224–99226
▶Hospital Inpatient Services	
Initial Hospital Care	99221–99223
Subsequent Hospital Care	99231–99233
Hospital Discharge Services	99238–99239

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Most frequently used E/M codes

Category	Code Numbers
▶Nursing Facility Services	
Initial Nursing Facility Care	99304–99306
Subsequent nursing facility care	99307–99310
Nursing facility discharge services	99315–99316
▶Domiciliary Care Services	
New patient	99324–99328
Established patient	99334–99337
▶Home Care Services	
New patient	99341–99345
Established patient	99347–99350

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E & M Coding

- 5-digit numbers of patient encounters that facilitate billing
- Various levels of care within each patient encounter
- In order to be paid properly, we need to document our encounters accurately
- Facilitates how the physician’s cognitive work is translated into reimbursement

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E & M Guidelines

- Developed by the AMA and CMS
- Two sets are available (1995 and 1997)
- You have the option to use any of the two but you can not mix elements from both guidelines in one note
- Most psychiatrists nowadays use the 1997 guideline

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E & M Guidelines

- 3 “key components” should fit just right to achieve compliance



- There are 4 specific levels per component
- Time spent with the patient is NOT a major component

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History

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Building Blocks of History

Level	HPI	PFSH	ROS
Problem Focused	Brief	None	None
Expanded Problem Focused	Brief	None	1
Detailed	Extended	1 of 3	2-9
Comprehensive	Extended	3 of 3	10

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History of Present Illness

Brief HPI	Extended HPI
Requires 1 to 3 HPI elements	Requires at least 4 HPI elements
*Comment on chronic conditions	*Describe 4 "associated comorbidities"
	*Comment on the status of 3 or more "chronic or inactive problems"

HPI Elements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Location o Severity o Duration o Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Timing o Context o Modifying Factors o Associated Signs and Symptoms
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Past, Family and Social History

- **Past Medical History**
 - Major illnesses
 - Surgeries
 - Current medications
 - Allergies
- **Family History**
 - Diseases related to identified problems in the HPI
 - Health status of first-degree relatives
 - Hereditary diseases
- **Social History**
 - Marital status
 - Current employment
 - Occupational history
 - Substance abuse history

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Review of Systems

Constitutional	Musculoskeletal
Eyes	Integumentary/Skin
Ears, Nose, Mouth, Throat	Neurological
Respiratory	Psychiatric
Cardiovascular	Endocrine
Gastrointestinal	Hematologic/Lymphatic
Genitourinary	Allergic/Immunologic

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Problem Focused History

Level	HPI	PFSH	ROS
PF	Brief	None	1
EPF	Brief	None	1
Detailed	Ext	1 of 3	2-9
Comp	Ext	3 of 3	10

- 1 to 3 HPI elements
- Or status of 1 to 2 chronic problems
- No PFSH
- No ROS

HPI Elements

Location	Timing
Severity	Context
Duration	Modifying Factors
Quality	Associated S & Sx

CC: "I still hear the voices."
HPI: Patient reports constant command auditory hallucinations.

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Expanded Problem Focused History

Level	HPI	PFSH	ROS
PF	Brief	None	None
EPF	Brief	None	1
Detailed	Ext	1 of 3	2-9
Comp	Ext	3 of 3	10

- 1 to 3 HPI elements
- Or status of 1 to 2 chronic problems
- No PFSH
- Review of 1 system

HPI Elements

Location	Timing
Severity	Context
Duration	Modifying Factors
Quality	Associated S & Sx

CC: "I still hear the voices and now they are telling me to hurt myself"
HPI: Patient reports constant command auditory hallucinations which started to tell him to hurt himself
ROS: Psychiatric: (+) insomnia; (-) depressed mood, suicidal ideations

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Detailed History

Level	HPI	PFSH	ROS
PF	Brief	None	None
EPF	Brief	None	1
Detailed	Ext	1 of 3	2-9
Comp	Ext	3 of 3	10

- at least 4 HPI elements
 - HPI Elements
 - Location
 - Severity
 - Duration
 - Quality
 - Timing
 - Context
 - Modifying Factors
 - Associated S & Sx
- Or status of 3 chronic problems (97)
OR 4 associated comorbidities (95)
- 1 of 3 components of PFSH
- Review of 2 to 9 systems

CC: "I still hear the voices and now they are telling me to hurt myself"

HPI: Patient reports constant command auditory hallucinations telling him to hurt himself, associated with poor sleep, more severe during the day, but relieved by intake of medications

PFSH: Patient reports using marijuana daily

ROS: Constitutional: no weight gain, feels physically well
Psychiatric: (+) insomnia; (-) depressed mood, suicidal ideations

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Comprehensive History

Level	HPI	PFSH	ROS
PF	Brief	None	None
EPF	Brief	None	1
Detailed	Ext	1 of 3	2-9
Comp	Ext	3 of 3	10

- at least 4 HPI elements
 - HPI Elements
 - Location
 - Severity
 - Duration
 - Quality
 - Timing
 - Context
 - Modifying Factors
 - Associated S & Sx
- Or status of 3 chronic problems (97)
OR 4 associated comorbidities (95)
- All 3 components of PFSH
- Review of 10 systems

CC: "I still hear the voices and now they are telling me to hurt myself"

HPI: Patient reports constant command auditory hallucinations telling him to hurt himself, associated with poor sleep, more severe during the day, but relieved by intake of medications

PFSH: Patient currently takes Clozapine 100mg BID. Patient's uncle also suffers from Schizophrenia. Patient reports using marijuana daily

ROS: Constitutional: no weight gain, feels physically well
Psychiatric: (+) insomnia; (-) depressed mood, suicidal ideations
All other systems reviewed and are negative

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Examination

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1995 Physical Examination

7 Body Areas

- Head, including face
- Neck
- Chest, including breast and axilla
- Abdomen
- Genitalia, groin, buttocks
- Back, including spine
- Extremities

12 Organ Systems

- Constitutional
- Eyes
- ENMT
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Musculoskeletal
- Skin
- Neurologic
- Psychiatric

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1997 Physical Examination

14 Organ Systems

- Constitutional
- Eyes
- ENMT
- Neck
- Respiratory
- Cardiovascular
- Chest, including breasts

- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Lymphatic
- Musculoskeletal
- Skin
- Neurologic
- Psychiatric

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Examination for Psychiatry

Level	Exam Bullets
Problem Focused	1 to 5 bullets
Expanded Problem Focused	6 to 8 bullets
Detailed	At least 9 bullets
Comprehensive	At least 1 bullet from the unshaded box AND every bullet in each of the shaded box

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Level	Exam Bullets
Comprehensive	At least 1 bullet from the unshaded box AND every bullet in each of the shaded box
System or Body Area	Elements
Musculoskeletal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscle strength and tone; any atrophy or abnormal movements • Examination of gait and station
Constitutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any 3 of the following VS: 1) sitting or standing BP, 2) supine BP, 3) PR and rhythm, 4) RR, 5) temp, 6) Ht, 7) Wt • General appearance
Psychiatric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech – rate, volume, articulation, coherence, and spontaneity • Thought Process – rate of thoughts, content, abstract reasoning, computation • Associations (loose, tangential, circumstantial, intact) • Abnormal psychotic thoughts – hallucinations, delusions, preoccupation with violence, homicidal or suicidal ideation, obsessions • Judgment and Insight <p>Complete Mental Status Examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation to time, place and person • Recent and remote memory • Attention span and concentration • Language • Fund of Knowledge • Mood and Affect

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Problem Focused Exam

Level	Exam Bullets	Elements
PF	1 to 5 bullets	<p>Musculoskeletal: strength and tone OR gait and station</p> <p>Constitutional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any 3 of ff - supine BP, sit/stand BP, PR, RR, T, Wt, Ht • General appearance <p>Psychiatric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech • Thought Process • Associations • Abnormal psychotic thoughts • Judgment and Insight <p>Mental Status Exam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient to time, place, person • Recent and remote memory • Attention span and concen. • Language • Fund of Knowledge • Mood and Affect
EPF	6 to 8 bullets	
Detailed	At least 9 bullets	
Comp	1 bullet from unshaded box AND each bullet in the shaded box	

Psychiatric

- (+) command auditory hallucinations to hurt self, (-) suicidal ideations

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Expanded Problem Focused Exam

Level	Exam Bullets	Elements
PF	1 to 5 bullets	<p>Musculoskeletal: strength and tone OR gait and station</p> <p>Constitutional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any 3 of ff - supine BP, sit/stand BP, PR, RR, T, Wt, Ht • General appearance <p>Psychiatric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech • Thought Process • Associations • Abnormal psychotic thoughts • Judgment and Insight <p>Mental Status Exam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient to time, place, person • Recent and remote memory • Attention span and concen. • Language • Fund of Knowledge • Mood and Affect
EPF	6 to 8 bullets	
Detailed	At least 9 bullets	
Comp	1 bullet from unshaded box AND each bullet in the shaded box	

Psychiatric

- mild racing thoughts, illogical at times
- no looseness of associations
- (+) command auditory hallucinations to hurt self, (-) suicidal ideations
- insight and judgment both fair
- oriented to time, place and person
- depressed mood, constricted affect

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Detailed Exam

Level	Exam Bullets	
PF	1 to 5 bullets	<p>Musculoskeletal: strength and tone OR gait and station</p> <p>Constitutional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any 3 of ff - supine BP, sit/stand BP, PR, RR, T, Wt, Ht • General appearance <p>Psychiatric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech • Thought Process • Associations • Abnormal psychotic thoughts • Judgment and Insight <p>Mental Status Exam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient to time, place, person • Recent and remote memory • Attention span and concen. • Language • Fund of Knowledge • Mood and Affect
EPF	6 to 8 bullets	
Detailed	At least 9 bullets	
Comp	1 bullet from unshaded box AND each bullet in the shaded box	

Psychiatric

- mild racing thoughts, illogical at times
- normal prosody
- no looseness of associations
- (+) command auditory hallucinations to hurt self, (-) suicidal ideations
- insight and judgment both fair
- oriented to time, place and person
- intact recent and remote memory
- intact attention span and concentration
- depressed mood, constricted affect

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Comprehensive Exam

Level	Exam Bullets	
Comp	1 bullet from unshaded box AND each bullet in the shaded box	<p>Musculoskeletal: strength and tone OR gait and station</p> <p>Constitutional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any 3 of ff - supine BP, sit/stand BP, PR, RR, T, Wt, Ht • General appearance <p>Psychiatric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech • Thought Process • Associations • Abnormal psychotic thoughts • Judgment and Insight <p>Mental Status Exam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient to time, place, person • Recent and remote memory • Attention span and concen. • Language • Fund of Knowledge • Mood and Affect
<p>Musculoskeletal: normal gait</p> <p>Constitutional: PR-95, RR-16, Sitting BP-110/80, no gross abnormalities in appearance</p> <p>Psychiatric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mild racing thoughts, illogical at times • normal prosody • no looseness of associations • (+) command auditory hallucinations to hurt self, (-) suicidal ideations • insight and judgment both fair <p>MSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oriented to time, place and person • intact recent and remote memory • intact attention span and concentration • no deficiencies in language • good fund of knowledge • depressed mood, constricted affect 		

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Medical Decision-Making

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Medical Decision-Making

- No difference between the 1995 and 1997 guidelines
- Most important of the key factors
- Reflects the cognitive work done by the physician
- Dimensions to quantify MDM:
 - Nature and number of problems
 - Extent of data reviewed
 - Medical risk

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Levels of MDM

- Straightforward
- Low Complexity
- Moderate Complexity
- High Complexity

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Quantifying the MDM

Number of Diagnoses	Data Reviewed	Risk	Level of MDM
Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Straightforward
Limited	Limited	Low	Low Complexity
Multiple	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate Complexity
Extensive	Extensive	High	High Complexity

Note: Only 2 out of 3 are needed to qualify for a given level

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MDM Point System

MDM	Problem Points	Data Points	Risk
Straightforward	≤ 1	≤ 1	Minimal
Low Complexity	2	2	Low
Moderate Complexity	3	3	Moderate
High Complexity	≥ 4	≥ 4	High

Note: Only 2 out of 3 are needed to qualify for a given level

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Problem Points

Problems/Diagnosis	Points
Self-limited or minor (max of 2)	1
Established problem, stable	1
Established problem, worsening	2
New problem, no additional work-up planned (max of 1)	3
New problem, additional work-up planned	4

Note:

- “New or old” will be relative to the examiner, not the patient
- Points are additive within the encounter

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Data Review Points

Data Reviewed	Points
Review/order clinical lab tests	1
Review/order X-rays	1
Review/order tests in the Medicine section (echo, EKG, LHC, PFTs)	1
Discussion of test results with performing MD	1
Independent review of image, tracing, or specimen	2
Decision to obtain old records	1
Review and summation of old records	2

Note: Points are additive within the encounter

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Moderate Complexity MDM

Patient with worsening psychosis; discussed treatment history with previous psychiatrist; order Clozapine levels and adjust dosage as needed; return to clinic in 3 days to assess safety

Final Result of Complexity

A	Number of Diagnosis or Treatment Options	≤1 Minimal	2 Limited	3 Multiple	≥4 Extensive
B	Highest Risk	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High
C	Amount and Complexity of Data	≤1 Minimal or Low	2 Limited	3 Multiple	≥4 Extensive
	Type of Decision-Making	Straightforward	Low Complexity	Moderate Complexity	High Complexity

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High Complexity MDM

Patient with worsening psychosis; discussed treatment history with previous psychiatrist; old records requested for review; order Clozapine levels and adjust dosage as needed; could potentially need hospitalization; return to clinic in 3 days to assess safety

Final Result of Complexity

A	Number of Diagnosis or Treatment Options	≤1 Minimal	2 Limited	3 Multiple	≥4 Extensive
B	Highest Risk	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High
C	Amount and Complexity of Data	≤1 Minimal or Low	2 Limited	3 Multiple	≥4 Extensive
	Type of Decision-Making	Straightforward	Low Complexity	Moderate Complexity	High Complexity

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Time

If the physician documents total time and suggests that counseling or coordinating care dominates (more than 50%) the encounter, time may determine level of service. Documentation may refer to: prognosis, differential diagnosis, risks, benefits of treatment, instructions, compliance, risk reduction or discussion with another health care provider.

Does documentation reveal total time? Time: Face-to-face in outpatient setting or unit/floor in inpatient setting	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does documentation describe the content of counseling or coordinating care?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does documentation reveal that more than half of the time was counseling or coordinating care?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

If all answers are "yes", select level based on time.

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Level of Service

Outpatient, Consultations (Outpatient & Inpatient) and ER

New Office / Consults / ER Requires 3 components within shaded area					
History	PF ER:PF	EPF ER:EPF	D ER:EPF	C ER:D	C ER:C
Examination	PF ER:PF	EPF ER:EPF	D ER:EPF	C ER:D	C ER:C
MDM	SF ER:SF	SF ER:L	L ER:M	M ER:M	H ER:H
Average Time (minutes) ER has no average time	10 New (99201) 15 Outpt cons (99241) 20 Inpt cons (99231) ER (99281)	20 New (99202) 30 Outpt cons (99242) 40 Inpt cons (99232) ER (99282)	30 New (99203) 40 Outpt cons (99243) 50 Inpt cons (99233) ER (99283)	45 New (99204) 60 Outpt cons (99244) 80 Inpt cons (99234) ER (99284)	60 New (99205) 80 Outpt cons (99245) 110 Inpt cons (99235) ER (99285)
Level	I	II	III	IV	V

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Level of Service

Outpatient, Consultations (Outpatient & Inpatient) and ER

Established Office Requires 2 components within shaded area					
History	Minimal problem that may not require presence of any physician	PF	EPF	D	C
Examination		PF	EPF	D	C
MDM		SF	L	M	H
Average Time (minutes) ER has no average time	5 (99211)	10 (99212)	15 (99213)	25 (99214)	40 (99215)
Level	I	II	III	IV	V

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Level of Service

Hospital Care

	Initial Hospital/Observation Requires 3 components within shaded area			Subsequent Hospital Requires 2 components within shaded area		
	D/C	C	C	PF Interval	EPF Interval	D Interval
History	D/C	C	C	PF Interval	EPF Interval	D Interval
Examination	D/C	C	C	PF	EPF	D
MDM	SF/L	M	H	SF/L	M	H
Average Time (minutes) Observation has no average time	30 Init hosp (99221) Observ care (99218)	50 Init hosp (99222) Observ care (99219)	70 Init hosp (99223) Observ care (99220)	15 Subsequent (99231)	25 Subsequent (99232)	35 Subsequent (99233)
Level	I	II	III	I	II	III

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Level of Service

Nursing Facility Care

	Initial Nursing Facility Requires 3 components within shaded area			Subsequent Nursing Facility Requires 2 components within shaded area			
	D/C	C	C	PF Interval	EPF Interval	D Interval	C Interval
History	D/C	C	C	PF	EPF	D	C
Examination	D/C	C	C	PF	EPF	D	C
MDM	SF/L	M	H	SF	L	M	H
	99304	99305	99306	99307	99308	99309	99310
Level	I	II	III	I	II	III	IV

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Level of Service

Nursing Facility Care

	Other Nursing Facility (Annual Assessment) Requires 3 components within shaded area
History	D Interval
Examination	D
MDM	L/M
	99318
Level	

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Level of Service

Domiciliary, Rest Home (e.g. Boarding Home), or Custodial Care Services and Home Care

	Requires 3 components within shaded area					Requires 2 components within shaded area			
	PF	EPF	D	C	C	PF Interval	EPF Interval	D Interval	C Interval
History	PF	EPF	D	C	C	PF Interval	EPF Interval	D Interval	C Interval
Examination	PF	EPF	D	C	C	PF	EPF	D	C
MDM	SF	L	M	M	H	SF	L	M	M/H
Average Time (minutes) ER has no average time	20 Domiciliary (99324)	30 Domiciliary (99325)	45 Domiciliary (99326)	60 Domiciliary (99327)	75 Domiciliary (99328)	15 Domiciliary (99334)	25 Domiciliary (99335)	40 Domiciliary (99336)	60 Domiciliary (99337)
	Home care (99341)	Home care (99342)	Home care (99343)	Home care (99344)	Home care (99345)	Home care (99347)	Home care (99348)	Home care (99349)	Home care (99350)
Level	I	II	III	IV	V	I	II	III	IV

