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Access to below E/M related information from this page. 1995 and 1997 Guiding Similarities and Differences E/M Components History: History of Present Disease History: A History Review: Past, Family and Social Examination Decision 1995 No Difference - Extended History of present Disease May Consist of The Status of Three Chronic/Inactive Conditions for Any Set of Guidelines (1995 or 1997) for services performed on/after 09/10/13. No difference to the body area, body system or complete single organ system No Difference 1997 Common Multisystem or One Organ System Below is an excerpt from the CMS Internet Only Guide (IOM) Medicare Claims Processing Guide, Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 30.6.1, Medical Need Service is a comprehensive payment criterion for payment in addition to individual PPC code requirements. In cases where a lower level of service is required at a lower level of care, there would be no need or expediency in medical care. The amount of documentation should not be the main factor you are billed for a certain level of service. Documentation should maintain the level of service that is reported. In addition, all services must be sufficiently documented to make medical need obvious. Medicare cannot pay for services for which documentation does not establish medical necessity. Article 1862 (a)(1) section XVIII of the Social Insurance Act provides: No payment may be made in accordance with Part A or B (Medicare) for any expenses incurred for items or services that are not reasonable and necessary to diagnose or treat a disease or injury or to improve the functioning of a member's defect. Services provided must be billed by Medicare based on medically necessary visit. If the visit does not require the documentation required to comply with the CPT 99XXX code, you should bill for a lower level of service. Do not include additional components in the report for the sole purpose of view of a particular PPC code. Medical necessity cannot be quantified by a points system. Determining the medical level of care (LOS) involves many factors and not the same from patient to patient and day in and day out. Medical necessity is determined through the culmination of vital factors, including, but not limited to: Clinical Judgment Standards of Practice Why a patient should be dealt with (major complaint), any acute aggravation/onset of medical conditions or injuries, stability/acuity of the patient, multiple medical co-morbidities, and patient management for this particular DOS. Other publications that assist in and the definition of the level of service, are the current procedural terminology® (CPT) National Initiative for Correct Coding (NCCI), while the above publications are available for documentation documentation coding assistance, they have strict guidelines, and do not give a definitive answer to determine the level of service for E/M claims. Coding Services provided by Medicare is ultimately the responsibility of the service provider. Regardless of which individual organization encodes and/or submits claims, the provider that provided the services is responsible for the level of the billed for the service. The medical need for laboratory tests and/or radiological testing should be clearly stated in the medical records. Noridian found that medical records could not establish the medical necessity of a laboratory order. Without justification clearly stated in the medical records, the service becomes not medically reasonable and necessary, and is thus denied. Resources Last Updated Wed, 12 February 2020 12:08:30 Pm Page 2 Current procedural terminology (CPT) definition of Modifier 25 is as follows: Modifier 25 - this modifier is used to rate and manage (E/M) service on the day when another service was provided to the patient by the same doctor. American Medical Association (AMA) Current procedural terminology (CPT) book defines Modifier 25 as significant, Separately identifiable assessment and management service by the same doctor on the same day of the procedure or other service: It may be necessary to indicate that on the day of the procedure or service identified by the CPC code, the patient's condition required a significant, separately identifiable E/M service over and above another service provided or outside of the normal preoperative and postoperative care associated with the procedure that was performed. A large, separately identifiable E/M service is determined or confirmed by documentation that meets the relevant criteria for reporting relevant E/M services (see E/M Assessment and Management Guidelines for E/M Level of Service Guidelines). The E/M service may be caused by a symptom or condition in which the procedure and/or service was provided. Thus, different diagnoses are not required to report E/M services on the same day. You can find out about this by adding a modifier 25 to the appropriate level of E/M service. Note: This modifier is not used to communicate with E/M, which led to the decision to conduct the operation, see Modifier 57. For significant, separately identifiable services that are not E/M on the same day, see: There are several nationally recognized sources of information about Modifier 25. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that Modifier 25 be used only in claims for evaluation and management services (E/M), and only when these services are provided by the same physician the same qualified non-physical physician) to the same patient on the same day as another procedure or other service. Service. is an example of the proper use of modifier 25: Example 1: A patient visits a cardiologist for an appointment complaining of accidental discomfort in the chest during exercise. The patient has a history of hypertension and high cholesterol. After the doctor completes the visit to the office, it is determined that the patient needs a cardiovascular stress test, which is performed on that day by the same doctor. Coding for Example 1: The doctor encodes an E/M visit (99201 - 99215), and he also codes for a cardiovascular stress test (93015). Modifier 25 is added to an E/M visit to indicate that the same day of the procedure was separately identified by E/M. coding sample: 99214, 25 93015 99214 - Office or other outpatient visit to evaluate and treat an established patient that requires at least 2 of these 3 key components. 93015 - Cardiovascular stress test Modifier stops the association of E/M visit to the procedure. When reviewing the doctor's documentation the carrier should be able to determine that both E/M and the procedure were needed with medical pores. As always, the documentation must confirm the approval your office sends to the carrier. Some examples of when not to use Modifier 25 Do not use a 25 modifier when billing for services performed in the postoperative period if associated with a previous operation. Do not appendage modifier 25 if there is only an E/M service performed while visiting the office (no procedure done). Do not use the 25 modifier in any E/M on the day of the Major (90 day global) procedure. Do not tie the 25 modifier to the E/M service when the minimum procedure is performed on the same day, unless the level of service can be maintained as significant, separately identifiable. All procedures have an inherent E/M service included. See the example of #2. The patient came to the scheduled procedure only Example 2: When a patient should come to your office for a cardiovascular stress test and the doctor also completes the story and performs a limited examination (particularly related to the stress test) your office should only code for a cardiovascular stress test (93015). Example coding: 93015 A few rules to remember when using Modifier 25 Modifiers are needed to inform third-party payers of circumstances that may affect the way they pay - modifiers tell a story about what is actually being done! Always link the modifier with the code E/M CPT, it is not necessary to have two different diagnostic codes Necessary to document both E/M and procedure In accordance with general NCCI coding policies, modifier 25 can be an appendage to ECM services, as reported with minor surgical procedures (global period 000 or 010 days) or procedures not covered by global (global indicator XXX). As minor surgical procedures and XXX procedures include within the procedural and after procedural work inherent in the procedure, the provider should not report the ECM service for this work. In addition, Medicare Global Surgery rules do not allow for a separate ECM service to be reported for work related to the decision to perform a small surgical procedure, regardless of whether the patient is a new or established patient with the decision to perform the surgery the next day. Last note When you submit a claim to an insurance carrier that is coded with a 25 modifier, you tell the carrier to pay you for both E/M visits and minor procedure. Often in the past claims with both E/M and procedures have been considered for accuracy. When you bill both codes on the same day, will your documentation support both codes? Have you documented the history, exam, and medical decision-making (or two of the three key elements, depending on your E/M code) separate from the procedure? Usually when these services have been verified the payment has been cancelled due to incorrect coding, incomplete documentation, and/or lack of medical need to support both codes billed on the same day by the same doctor. Modifier 25 can be used for outpatient, inpatient and outpatient surgical center of inpatient outpatient use. Modifier 25 can be used in other situations such as critical care codes and emergency room visits. Please refer to the AMA CPT 2019 coding book for a full definition of the codes. For more information on the level of service, please see the CMS E/M coding guidelines for '95 and '97 on the websites listed below. Links For more information send your questions coding@acc.org CPT Copyright 2019 american Medical Association. All rights are reserved. Reserved.

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