

Office / Outpatient Evaluation & Management (E/M) Visits

New Patient Visits (99202–99205)

CPT Code	Level	Description (Plain English)	Typical Use
99202	Level 2	Straightforward visit for a new patient with a minor problem; limited history/exam and low complexity decision-making	Simple issue (e.g., mild rash, minor injury)
99203	Level 3	Low complexity visit; more detailed history/exam than 99202	Common new concerns (e.g., UTI, mild asthma symptoms)
99204	Level 4	Moderate complexity; comprehensive evaluation with medical decision-making or multiple issues	New patient with multiple conditions or uncertain diagnosis
99205	Level 5	High complexity; extensive evaluation and high-risk decision-making	Serious or complex presentation (e.g., chest pain, new neurologic symptoms)

Established Patient Visits (99211–99215)

CPT Code	Level	Description (Plain English)	Typical Use
99211	Level 1	Minimal service; may not require physician presence	Nurse visit, quick BP check, simple follow-up
99212	Level 2	Straightforward visit; minimal problem and low complexity	Minor issue follow-up
99213	Level 3	Low complexity; expanded problem-focused visit	Routine follow-up (e.g., stable chronic condition)
99214	Level 4	Moderate complexity; multiple issues or medication management	Chronic disease management with adjustments
99215	Level 5	High complexity; significant risk or extensive management	Complex patient with worsening conditions

Preventive Medicine Visits (Annual/Wellness Exams)

New Patient Preventive Visits (99381–99387)

CPT Code	Age Range	Description (Plain English)	Typical Use
99381	<1 year	Initial comprehensive preventive exam for infant	New baby check
99382	1–4 years	Preventive visit for early childhood	Toddler well visit
99383	5–11 years	Preventive visit for school-age child	Annual physical
99384	12–17 years	Preventive visit for adolescent	Teen checkup
99385	18–39 years	Adult preventive visit (new patient)	First physical exam
99386	40–64 years	Middle-aged adult preventive visit	New patient annual exam
99387	65+ years	Older adult preventive visit	Initial senior wellness visit

Established Patient Preventive Visits (99391–99397)

CPT Code	Age Range	Description (Plain English)	Typical Use
99391	<1 year	Routine preventive exam for established infant	Follow-up baby check
99392	1–4 years	Preventive visit for established young child	Annual toddler visit
99393	5–11 years	Preventive visit for established child	Annual school physical
99394	12–17 years	Preventive visit for established adolescent	Teen annual check
99395	18–39 years	Adult preventive visit (established)	Annual physical
99396	40–64 years	Middle-aged adult preventive visit	Annual exam
99397	65+ years	Older adult preventive visit	Annual senior wellness exam

Key Practical Distinctions

- New vs. Established Patient
 - New: No professional services from the provider/group in past 3 years
 - Established: Seen within past 3 years
- E/M vs. Preventive
 - 99202–99215 → Problem-focused visits (diagnosis/treatment)
 - 99381–99397 → Preventive care (routine exams, screenings, counseling)
- Billing nuance
 - Preventive visits do not include treatment of new problems—if a significant issue is addressed, a separate E/M code (992xx) may be billed with modifier -25