

CPT Coding: Time vs Complexity				
CPT Level	Code by Time	Code by Complexity (choose the highest level met by at least two of these categories)		
		Problems ¹	Risk	Data
99212	10–19 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A self-limited or minor problem 	Minimal (patient seen for evaluation and no disorder is found)	N/A
99213	20–29 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or more self-limited or minor problems; or A chronic disorder in remission; or An active but uncomplicated disorder 	Low (patient is seen for adjustment disorder and referred to therapy, or insomnia is managed with over-the-counter melatonin)	At least one of these two bullets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third-party history was gathered At least two unique items from this list were reviewed: outside notes, reports, rating scales, labs, or other tests²
99214	30–39 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A chronic disorder with active symptoms or medication side effects; or Two chronic disorders in remission; or A new problem that is undiagnosed and has an uncertain prognosis; or A disorder with systemic symptoms; or An acute uncomplicated injury (rarely used) 	Moderate (any prescription drug is involved, or there is at least one social determinant of health)	At least one of these three bullets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You coordinated care with another provider² At least three unique items from this list were reviewed: outside notes, reports, rating scales, labs, other tests, or a third-party history³ You interpreted a test (beyond simply reporting the results)⁴
99215	40–54 min Longer times may qualify for a G2212 or 99417 code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A chronic disorder with severe symptoms or serious medication side effects; or A disorder that threatens life or bodily function 	High (risk of suicide, dangerous behavior, hospitalization, or other major threat to morbidity and mortality; or high-risk medications are involved such as those requiring laboratory testing, antidepressants in bipolar disorder, or controlled substances in those at risk for adverse events on them)	At least two of these three bullets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You coordinated care with another provider² At least three unique items from this list were reviewed: outside notes, labs, other tests, or a third-party history³ You interpreted a test (beyond simply reporting the results)⁴

¹For each problem, document that it was assessed, that it was treated, or that management options were considered

²“Providers” includes clinicians, teachers, lawyers, and parole officers; interaction must be verbal and occur within two days of the visit

³Each unique item contributes a point (eg, reviewing a metabolic panel, reviewing a thyroid panel, and interviewing a family member = three points)

⁴This involves complicated tests that have their own CPT codes, such as imaging, EKG, EEG, or sleep studies

From the Article:
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