2023 Brief Guide to Hospitalist Billing/Coding

Billing by Time: Must document specific amount of time, with the exception of discharge.

Visit Type	Billing Code and	Notes
	Minimum Time	
	Requirement	
Admission H&P	99221 – 40 min	
	99222 – 55 min	
	99223 – 75 min	
Subsequent F/U	99231 – 25 min	
visit	99232 – 35 min	
	99233 – 50 min	
Discharge	99238	
	99239 - >30 min	
Same day admit/DC	99234 – 45 min	Minimum 8 hr admission; requires 2 encounters and 2 notes.
	99235 – 70 min	
	99236 – 85 min	
Initial consult day	99252 – 35 min	To be used on first day of consult; use F/U codes for subsequent days.
	99253 – 45 min	
	99254 – 60 min	
	99255 – 80 min	
Prolonged service	99418 for each 15	Must bill by time if using prolonged service code.
	minutes over the max	

MDM billing: Must document at least 2 of the 3 elements

ELEMENT 1 : Number and Complexity of Problems	ELEMENT 2 : Amount and/or Complexity of Data	ELEMENT 3: Risk of
	Reviewed and Analyzed	Complications and/or
		Morbidity
MODERATE MDM	MODERATE MDM: 1 category	MODERATE MDM
■ 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation,	HIGH MDM: 2 or more categories	Moderate risk of
progression, or side effects of treatment;		morbidity from disease,
OR	Category 1: Any combination of 3 from the following:	diagnostic testing
■ 2 or more stable, chronic illnesses;	 Review of prior external note(s); 	or treatment
OR	 Ordering unique test(s); 	
■ 1 new problem with uncertain prognosis;	 Independent review/interpretation of 	
OR	tests;	HIGH MDM
■ 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms;	 Gathering history from independent 	High risk of morbidity
OR	historian(s)	from disease, diagnostic
■ 1 acute, complicated injury	OR	testing
	Category 2: Independent interpretation of	or treatment
HIGH MDM	tests performed by another provider not separately	
■ 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation,	reported	
progression, or side effects of treatment;	OR	
OR	Category 3: Discussion of the case with consultants or	
■ 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat	other treating physicians (e.g., referring ED, referring	
to life or function	PCP, etc)	