Summary

This policy describes reimbursement for multiple Evaluation and Management (E/M) services provided on the same date of service for a patient by the same physician or other health care professional reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

Policy Statement

The Same Day Same Service policy addresses those instances when a single E/M service should be reported by a physician or other health care professional for a patient on one date of service. As stated in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Claims Processing Manual, "Physicians in the same group practice who are in the same specialty must bill and be paid as though they were a single physician. If more than one evaluation and management (face-to-face) service is provided on the same day to the same patient by the same physician or more than one physician in the same specialty in the same group, only one evaluation and management service may be reported unless the evaluation and management services are for unrelated problems. Instead of billing separately, the physicians should select a level of service representative of the combined visits and submit the appropriate code for that level."

Consistent with CMS, this policy recognizes physicians or other health care professionals of the same group and specialty as the same physician; physician subspecialty is not considered.

When a significant and separately identifiable E/M service has been provided to a patient by a second physician in the same group and specialty on the same day for an unrelated problem, the E/M service should be reported with modifier 25.

There are instances when appending modifier 25 to an E/M service would not be appropriate to report. These include, but are not limited to:

- Reporting separate services when a more comprehensive code exists that describes the services.
- Reporting two E/M services where one or both services includes the phrase "per day" in the CPT code description:
  - If both physicians seeing the patient in the hospital on the same day are the same specialty: Inpatient hospital visits (CPT codes 99221-99233), include the phrase “per day” which means that the code, along with its reimbursement, represent all inpatient services provided on the same date of service. Select a code that represents all services provided during the same date of service. Billing one inpatient hospital visit also applies in situations where one physician covers for another later in the day and provides a second inpatient hospital visit.


Note: If both physicians seeing the patient in the hospital on the same day are of different specialties, each are responsible for different aspects of the patient’s care and the visits are billed with different diagnoses, both visits are eligible for reimbursement.

Definitions

**Same physician or other health care professional** – Physicians and/or health care professionals of the same group and same specialty reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

**Modifier 25** – Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management (E/M) Service by the Same Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional on the Same Day of the Procedure or Other Service. It may be necessary to indicate that on the day a procedure or service identified by a CPT code was performed, the patient's condition required a significant, separately identifiable E/M service above and beyond the other service provided or beyond the usual preoperative and postoperative care associated with the procedure that was performed. A significant, separately identifiable E/M service is defined or substantiated by documentation that satisfies the relevant criteria for the respective E/M service to be reported.

Code List

**Same Day Same Service Code List**

Resources

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)

Effective Date

06/01/1988

Revision Updates

- 06/22/2017 Annual policy review
- 01/01/2017 Code list update
- 10/14/2016 Code list update
- 08/18/2016 Annual policy review
- 07/01/2016 Code list update
- 04/01/2016 Code list update

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