

PREVENTIVE CARE VISITS

The American Medical Association's (AMA) CPT® code set describes the annual preventive exam as a periodic, comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation (or reevaluation) and management of a patient. Codes 99381-99397 represent these services, and their selection is based on whether the patient is receiving an initial (new patient) or a periodic (established patient) preventive service, as well as the patient's age.

Defining Comprehensive for Preventive Care

A preventive medicine service is comprehensive in nature; however, the "comprehensive" nature of these services should not be confused with the comprehensive examination requirements in other E/M codes. When determining if the physician or other qualified healthcare provider's documentation supports a preventive medicine CPT® code, the question of how these services should be documented inevitably comes up.

Documentation

The patient's needs, history, and risk factors determine the extent to which counseling, anticipatory guidance, and screening services should be performed, based on the provider's clinical judgment. For example, a female with a family history of breast cancer may need a screening at an earlier age than typically recommended. What is **important** is the documentation should include what counseling and anticipatory guidance was provided to each patient, as well as the screenings that were discussed and ordered or offered, should the patient decline. The documentation should very clearly show that the elements of the annual preventive service were met.

Elements should include:

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| • A comprehensive history and physical examination |
| • Anticipatory guidance, risk factor reduction interventions or counseling |
| • The ordering of appropriate immunizations or laboratory/diagnostic procedures |
| • Management of minor problems and stable chronic conditions that do not require additional work |

Problem oriented visit with Preventive Care Visit:

Checking the status of chronic conditions and refilling on going prescriptions is expected during an annual preventive exam and **does not** warrant the billing of a separate problem-oriented E/M service.

If a chronic condition is not being well controlled, however, and decisions are being made as to how to treat the patient to improve control (changing the dosage of medications, changing to a new medication, etc.), this may substantiate a separate problem-oriented E/M service. For example, more work is done (and documented) than what is performed normally during an annual preventive exam. If a separately documented E/M service is provided on the same day as a preventive visit, modifier 25 must be appended to the E/M service.

Key Points

- Preventive medicine coding varies based on the type of visit – a standard preventive E/M visit, a preventive E/M visit with a problem-oriented service, a preventive visit for a Medicare patient and a preventive counseling visit.
- Some, but not all, payers will reimburse both preventive and problem-oriented services on the same date.
- Medicare does not provide reimbursement for CPT's preventive medicine services codes, but it does cover other screening services. [For Medicare patients, this would include an Annual Wellness Visit – AWW and Initial Preventive Physical Examination – IPPE as well as other preventive exams; these will be covered in a subsequent Coding Corner.](#)
- Use appropriate age related CPT and diagnosis codes.

CPT Code	CPT Description
99381	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; infant (age younger than 1 year)
99382	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; early childhood (age 1 through 4 years)
99383	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; late childhood (age 5 through 11 years)
99384	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; adolescent (age 12 through 17 years)
99385	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; 18-39 years
99386	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; 40-64 years
99387	Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient; 65 years and older
99391	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; infant (age younger than 1 year)
99392	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; early childhood (age 1 through 4 years)
99393	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; late childhood (age 5 through 11 years)
99394	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; adolescent (age 12 through 17 years)
99395	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; 18-39 years
99396	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; 40-64 years
99397	Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient; 65 years and older

Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis Description
Z00.00	Encounter for general adult medical examination without abnormal findings
Z00.01	Encounter for general adult medical examination with abnormal findings (use additional code to identify abnormal findings)
Z00.110	Health examination for newborn under 8 days' old
Z00.111	Health examination for newborn 8 to 28 days' old
Z00.121	Encounter for routine child health examination with abnormal findings (use additional code to identify abnormal findings)
Z00.129	Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings

Resources:

<https://www.aafp.org/fpm/topicModules/viewTopicModule.htm?topicModuleId=65>

<http://library.ahima.org/doc?oid=78679#.XJpUu8vfP3s>

<https://www.aapc.com/blog/39873-recommended-ways-to-document-and-report-a-preventive-visit/>

<https://www.EncoderPro.com>