

2021 E/M CODING UPDATE

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INTRODUCTION

This article introduces some of the significant changes that occurred effective January 1, 2021 that apply to E/M (Evaluation and Management) office visits— yes, the ones that have not changed since 1997...however, that is about to change. The remainder of the E/M codes will be changing in 2022. This applies to Medicare as well as most other insurers.

Now is the time to plan ahead and take advantage of the webinar “2021 E/M Office Visit Coding + Financial Optimization” available from Riva Lee Asbell Associates.

AN OUTLINE OF THE NEW OFFICE VISIT CODING REGULATIONS

Let’s make it simple!

- **BASIS OF THE CODE SET...** Office visit codes no longer are based on the Three Key Components, but rather are based simply on either Medical Decision Making (MDM) or Time.
- **MEDICAL DECISION MAKING...**The MDM is based on the 1997 Table of Risk, but in a very different, relative easy and modified way that entails some study.
- **USING TIME AS THE BASIS FOR CODE SELECTION...**Time generally does not apply to ophthalmology; however, it may be pertinent to some subspecialties such as neuro-ophthalmology. The rules are much more lenient and have changed drastically from 1997.
- **EYE CODE USAGE...**The choice of which set of codes to use has been simplified for 2021 and financial optimization is dependent on this year’s algorithms. Recommend changes for each calendar year are provided to retainer clients on an annual basis.
- Training in compliance with the eye codes (a/k/a Ophthalmology Codes) is practically nonexistent anymore and the rules are complicated. See Part II of the three part course on my website (www.RivaLeeAsbell.com). It is imperative to master both sets of codes in order to take advantage of the significant financial optimization.

Looking forward to working with you!