BlueCross BlueShield of Texas



Well-Child Visits

They May Be Performed with an Evaluation and Management Visit

Evaluation and management visits can be an opportunity to catch up on well-child visits. A well-child visit may be billed with a problem-oriented E/M visit if the documentation supports a significant and separately identifiable E/M code beyond a well-child visit.

Billing an E/M visit with a well-child visit

Providers may bill a well visit code and an E/M code by appending **modifier 25** to the office or other outpatient service code. Refer to the American Academy of Pediatrics for details on Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes.

What are E/M visits?

A visit with a primary care practitioner in an office or outpatient setting to:

- Address a specific medical issue
- Assess and manage a patient's health through medical decision-making
- Review a patient's health history and medications. The visit can also include a physical exam or lab tests.
- Review immunization history and the Texas Statewide Immunization Information System at every visit and administer needed immunizations

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What are well-child visits?

A visit that includes:

- Comprehensive physical examination
- Reviewing immunization history and administering needed vaccines
- Reviewing the child's medical, surgical, family and social histories
- Preventive screenings for the early periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment program
- Laboratory tests
- Assessment of physical, emotional and mental health
- Assessing the child's oral health
- Reviewing the child's development and milestones
- Health education (anticipatory guidance)
- Assessing vision and hearing when indicated
- Referring to specialty services when indicated

E/M codes

CPT Code	Description
99202-99205	New patient
99212-99215	Established patient

Well-child visit codes

New patients

CPT Code	Description
99381	Infant (younger than 1 year)
99382	Early childhood (age 1–4 years)
99383	Late childhood (age 5–11 years)
99384	Adolescent (age 12–17 years)
99385	18 years or older

Established patients

CPT Code	Description
99391	Infant (younger than 1 year)
99392	Early childhood (age 1–4 years)
99393	Late childhood (age 5–11 years)
99394	Adolescent (age 12–17 years)
99395	18 years or older

Common scenarios

Adding a well-child visit to an E/M visit

A 9-year-old has an appointment with a PCP for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. The PCP adjusts the patient's medication and schedules a follow-up visit in 30 days. During the next visit, PCP notes the patient is due for a well-child visit. PCP conducts a full well-child visit and administers immunizations including flu, COVID-19 and human papillomavirus vaccines.

Bill: E/M visit CPT with modifier 25 and well-child visit CPT

Adding an E/M visit to a well-child visit

During a routine well visit, the parent mentions their child has been using their albuterol rescue inhaler routinely over the past few days with changes in the weather and area forest fire activity. The provider evaluates the member and treats them for an asthma exacerbation. The provider also updates and provides an asthma care plan for the member's school.

Bill: Well-child visit CPT and E/M visit CPT with modifier 25

How to document

- Maintain separate documentation for the different components of the E/M and well-child visit.
- Record any specific illness, injury or complaint evaluated during the E/M visit.
- Log the assessment and plan related to the problem-focused concern, distinct from the preventive care plan.
- Document any tests, treatments, referrals or counseling provided during the visit.

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