

CPT 99072

November 02, 2020

CPT code 99072 is a new practice expense code that describes the additional supplies and clinical staff time providers are using to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus while still providing safe in-person visits. The code should only be used during a declared public health emergency and is different from code 99070, which is typically reported for supplies and materials that may be provided to patients during a normal office visit.

CPT code 99072 should be reported only once per in-person visits per provider identification number (PIN), regardless of the number of services performed during the visit.

AMA also noted that it has submitted recommendations to CMS to “inform payment” of the new CPT code.

What Insurers Are Covering the 99072?

Documentation requirements for 99072 will vary among insurers, so be sure to check with your top payers for their specific policy. Your documentation must include information that supports the requirements for 99072. Include a statement that notes “Due to COVID-19 ...” and then document what steps you took or supplies you used.

Since this code is so new, it’s tough to predict its prospects for payment. First, you’ll have to manually upload the new CPT code to your system — and it may take payers some time to update their own systems and policies. To avoid claim denials, it’s always wise to confirm with your payers if they are accepting 99072 yet, and if not, when you can expect it.

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Some third-party payers have and will reimburse providers for this new CPT code, others won't. CMS announced on October 27 it has assigned CPT 99072 procedure status "B." Status "B" means:

- ⇒ there are no RVUs for this code;
- ⇒ CMS considers it to be bundled with whatever service was provided that day;
- ⇒ CMS' contractors will not pay for this service;
- ⇒ providers may not bill the beneficiary for this service; and
- ⇒ issuing an Advanced Beneficiary Notice related to this service is not an option