



Updates for Split or Shared Evaluation & Management Visits

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: [CR 13592](#)

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Related CR Transmittal Number: R12604CP

Related CR Title: Internet-Only Manual (IOM) Updates for Split (or Shared) Evaluation and Management Visits

Affected Providers

- Physicians
- Non-physician practitioners (NPPs)
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare patients

Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows:

- The definition of split or shared visit and substantive portion
- How to bill appropriately for split or shared evaluation and management (E/M) visits

Background

CR 13592 updates Section 30.6.18 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 12](#), to conform with updated policies in the CY 2024 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies [final rule](#) for split or shared E/M services.

CMS considers the practitioner who spends more than half of the total time or performs the substantive part of medical decision making (MDM) to have performed the substantive portion and can bill for the split or shared E/M visit.

Definition of Split or Shared Visit

A split or shared visit is an E/M visit that both a physician or NPP in the same group perform in a facility setting, and in accordance with applicable law and regulations, either the physician or NPP can bill the service if they provide it independently. We pay the practitioner who performs the substantive portion of the visit.

Facility setting is an institutional setting in which payment for services and supplies provided

incident to a physician or NPP's professional services is prohibited under our regulations.

Definition of Substantive Portion: More Than Half of the Total Time, or a Substantive Part of the Medical Decision Making (MDM)

For critical care visits and prolonged services which don't use MDM and only use time, substantive portion still means more than half of the total time spent by the practitioner performing the split or shared visit.

As of January 1, 2024, substantive portion means more than half of the total time spent by the physician and NPP performing the split or shared visit, or a substantive part of the MDM per the CPT E/M Guidelines. See the 2024 CPT Codebook.

When MDM is used as the substantive portion, we believe each practitioner can perform certain aspects of MDM, but the billing practitioner must perform the substantive part of MDM as [CPT E/M Guidelines](#) show to bill the shared visit.

Definition of Substantive Portion for E/M Visit Code Families

E/M Visit Code Family	2024 Definition of Substantive Portion
Other Outpatient	More than half of total time or a substantive part of the MDM
Inpatient/Observation/Hospital/Skilled nursing facilities (SNF)	More than half of total time or a substantive part of the MDM
Emergency Department	More than half of total time or a substantive part of the MDM
Critical Care	More than half of total time

Note: Office visits and nursing facility visits aren't billable as split or shared services.

Also starting in 2024, for prolonged visits, the substantive portion is more than half of the practitioners' total time. Only bill prolonged services when time is used to select visit level, and determination of who performed the substantive portion is based on time.

More Information

We issued CR 13592 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, [find your MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
May 3, 2024	Initial article released.

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