

Inpatient Billing Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet provides a quick and structured guide for healthcare providers and billing professionals to navigate inpatient billing processes efficiently.

CPT codes			
Code	Description	CPT prolonged service codes	CPT threshold
99205	New patient office or other outpatient services	+99417	75 mins
99215	Established patient office or other outpatient services	+99417	55 mins
99418	Additional 15-minute increments beyond the highest level of inpatient service.	+99418	15 mins
99221-99223	Initial inpatient care codes (based on history, examination, and medical decision-making).	+99418	90 mins
99231-99233	Subsequent hospital visit codes.	+99418	50 mins
99236	Observation or inpatient care services	+99418	85 mins
99238-99239	Discharge management services (based on time spent on discharge day).	N/A	30 mins or less
99245	Office or other outpatient consultation for new or established patient	+99417	70 mins
99255	Inpatient/observation consultation for a new or established patient	+99418	95 mins
99306	Initial nursing facility care or even greater complexity	+99418	60 mins
99310	Subsequent nursing facility care for patients with extremely high complexity health conditions	+99418	60 mins
99345	New patient home or residence visit	+99417	90 mins
99350	Established patient home or residence visits for new patients within the realm of Evaluation and Management (E/M) services.	+99417	75 mins
Billing guidelines			
Guideline	Details		
Claim submission	Submit claims upon discharge or use interim billing every 60 days for extended stays.		
Type of bill codes	111: Admit to discharge 112: First interim claim 113: Continuing interim claim 114: Final interim claim		
Time-based services	Accurately document prolonged services (e.g., 99418) in 15-minute increments.		

Documentation requirements	
Requirement	Details
Admission notes	Initial history, examination, and plan of care.
Progress notes	Daily updates and medical decision-making.
Discharge summary	Final diagnosis, hospital course, and discharge instructions.
Diagnosis codes	Include appropriate ICD-10 codes for procedures.
Prolonged services	Time spent must be documented in 15-minute increments.
Quick reference table	
Category	Key information
Prolonged service code	99418 (Additional 15 min increments)
Initial inpatient codes	99221-99223
Subsequent visit codes	99231-99233
Hospital inpatient or observation discharge services	99238-99239
Hospital inpatient claim	111
Hospital initial interim	112
Hospital continuing interim	113
Hospital final interim bill	114
Claim frequency	Discharge or interim every 60 days
Additional notes	

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2023). *Evaluation and management services guide*. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/eval-mgmt-serv-guide-ICN006764.pdf>

University of Rochester Medicine. (2023). *Prolonged service codes prolonged service description*. <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/MediaLibraries/URMCMedia/compliance-office/education-tools/em-guidelines/prolonged-service-codes.pdf>