

PROVIDER BULLETIN

HEDIS News You Can Use Coding: Well and Sick Visits

Have you ever wondered?

- ❑ How can I decrease my Gaps in Care to meet my Well Child measure goals if a patient only comes in when they are sick?
- ❑ Can I provide a Well Child exam during a simple Sick Visit?
- ❑ If I provide well care during an acute visit, how would I bill.... Well Visit/Sick Visit or Both?



Well Visit

A well visit is for a routine or yearly health maintenance exam.

Coding for these preventive services would include: CPT: 99381-99385; 99391-99395 & 99461. When you bill using these codes you will meet the HEDIS measures below.

Updated Well Child Measures

- **W30**- Well Child visits in the first 30 months of life
 - 6 or more visits in the first 15 months
 - 2 or more visits between 15-30
- **WCV**- Child and Adolescent Well Care visits
 - At least one well visit each year for children 3-21 years of age

In order to meet this measure, clear demonstration of the following needs to be documented:

- Health History
- Physical Exam
- Physical Development
- Mental Development
- Anticipatory Guidance



Sick Visit

This is an office visit for an acute problem. Could also be an office visit to follow-up on chronic problems (Diabetes, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, etc.).



Sick & Well Visit

Preventive services may be rendered and reimbursed on visits other than Well-Child visits. Well-Child preventive services count toward the measure, regardless of the primary intent of the visit, as long as the following conditions are met:

- ❖ **CPT-Modifier 25** must be billed with the applicable Evaluation & Management (E/M) code for the allowed sick visit
- ❖ If Modifier 25 is not billed appropriately, the sick visit will be denied
- ❖ Appropriate diagnosis codes must be billed for respective visits

Example: A patient presents for a sprained ankle and the physician orders ankle x-rays. The EMR indicates the patient is due for their well visit. The well visit can be conducted with the exam of the sprained ankle if documentation supports an E/M code.

- ❖ CPT Codes: 99213 (E/M established patient) with **modifier 25** is coded, along with 99392 (Well Care)
- ❖ Diagnosis Codes: V20.2 (Routine infant or child health check)

Example of when **not to use** the E/M code with modifier 25:

During an acute visit for a 12-month-old child, diaper rash is noted in the chart and a prescription for the rash is written. During the visit, an alert shows the child has not been in for a well visit since the child was 6 months old. A well-child visit is conducted during the acute visit.

- ❖ Do not count this visit as a sick visit since the problem (diaper rash) was an insignificant or minor problem
- ❖ Other services may also be appropriate during these types of visits: Vaccines, Height, Weight, BMI values/percentiles

