

EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT (E&M) SERVICES WITH PREVENTIVE SERVICES

Scope

This policy applies to:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare | |

Policy

Original Effective Date: 06/01/2017

When benefits allow, Kaiser Permanente will reimburse 50 percent of the allowable on problem focused E&M office visits or home visits with modifier 25 when billed with a preventive medicine examination. Preventive medicine examinations will be reimbursed at 100 percent of the allowable.

Billing/Coding Guidelines

All claims must be billed according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines.

Codes included in this policy:

- E&M office visits (99201-99215) when billed with modifier 25
- Home visits (99341-99350) when billed with modifier 25
- Preventive medicine examinations (99381-99397)

Policy Definitions

Problem Focused E&M visits – Includes a history of the chief complaint of the present illness or problem, examination of the affected body area or organ system, medical decision making, counseling and/or coordination of care.

Preventive Medicine Examinations – Includes a comprehensive age and gender appropriate history of patient's past, family, and social history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and ordering of lab/diagnostic procedures.

Prerequisite(s)

Not applicable

References

Not Applicable

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q1:** Why is Kaiser Permanente reducing the allowed amount on the E&M visits when billed with a preventive medicine examination?
- A1:** There are certain elements of the preventive medicine examination that are duplicated in the E&M visits. These elements include obtaining vitals, certain portions of taking the patient history, and preparation of the exam room to name a few.
- Q2:** Why is Kaiser Permanente reducing the allowed amount on the E&M visits instead of the preventive medicine examinations?
- A2:** Kaiser Permanente is reimbursing the greater valued preventive medicine examination at 100 percent of the allowed, the E&M visits are the lessor valued service.
- Q3:** A member has an appointment with the primary care physician for a preventive visit and also discusses a medical condition. The provider codes for both the preventive exam (99395) and an E&M exam (99211-25). Will both services be allowed?
- A3:** Yes. Kaiser Permanente will allow the covered E&M exam at 50 percent of the allowable when billed with a preventive exam. Kaiser Permanente will allow the preventive exam at 100 percent of the allowable.
- Q4:** A member has an appointment with a physician to discuss a medical condition. The provider codes an E&M exam (99214). Will the service be allowed?
- A4:** Yes. Kaiser Permanente will allow the covered E&M exam at 100 percent of the allowable when billed without a preventive exam.

Revision History

08/26/2022 – Updated formatting

06/01/2017 – New Policy

Note: This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, we may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. Further, the policy does not cover all issues related to reimbursement for services rendered to our enrollees as legislative mandates, the provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents, and the Provider Manual all may supplement or in some cases supersede this policy. This policy may be modified from time to time by publishing a new version of the policy on Kaiser Permanente provider website; however, the information presented in this policy is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication.