

2 MINUTE PEARLS



Documenting the -25 Modifier In Primary Care



- Do you sometimes see patients for wellness visits and end up addressing separate acute issues during the same encounter?
- In these situations, it is appropriate to document a -25 modifier in the AHLTA Disposition Page
- Why should you care? Using the -25 modifier (used when there are two separate and distinct E&M codes for a single visit) enables you to get RVU credit for both E&M codes.
 - For example, a well woman exam for a 30 year old established patient (99395) yields 1.36 RVU whereas a visit for evaluation and treatment of a moderately severe headache might result in a 99213 (0.67 RVU). Using the -25 modifier enables you to get credit for BOTH E&M codes and would result in 2.03 RVU for that visit.
- Always consult your local coder for guidance should you have any questions.

Important Considerations

- You can only use the -25 modifier in this situation if you do a complete wellness type visit in addition to the extra history and physical documentation required for the acute problem.
- The top diagnosis in the A/P window must be a V-code for the preventive care provided.

You **MUST** always place the preventive medicine diagnosis code first (also known as the V code) in the A/P module. Any acute or other diagnoses should be listed subsequently.

Folder List:

- Appointments
- Telephone Consult
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunizations Adm
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO
- Demographics
- Health History
- Problems
- Meds
- Allergy
- Wellness
- Immunizations
- Vital Signs Rev
- PKC Couplers
- Readiness
- Patient Questic
- Lab
- Radiology
- Clinical Notes
- Previous Encounte
- Flowsheets
- Current Encounter
- Screening
- Vital Signs Entr
- S/O
- A/P
- Disposition

Diagnosis Table:

Priority	ICD	Diagnosis	Chronic/Acute	Type
1	V70.0	visit for: routine adult H&P	Acute	New
		Plan/Comments: Patient with all health maintenance items up to date. Advised pt to f/u in 1 year for routine exam.		
		Procedure(s): COLORECTAL CANCER SCREEN;FECAL-OCCULT BLOOD TEST;1-3 SIM DET(G0107)		
		PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING; DIGITAL RECTAL EXAMINATION(G0102)		
2	307.81	TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE	Chronic	New

Orders & Procedures:

- COLORECTAL CANCER SCREEN;FECAL-OCCULT BLOOD TEST;1-3 SIM DET(G0107)
- PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING; DIGITAL RECTAL EXAMINATION(G0102)

Procedure List:

- Pulmonary Function Tests Peak Flow 94150
- Pulse Oximetry 94760
- Inhalation Treatment (Nonpressurized) 94640
- ECG 12-Lead 93000
- SCREENING PAP OBTAIN, PREP, CONVEY CERV/VAG SMEAR TO LAB Q0091
- Immunization Administration Under Age 8, One Vaccine 90465
- Immunization Admin Under Age 8, Each Additional Vaccine 90466
- Immunization Administration One Vaccine 90471
- Immunization Administration Each Additional Vaccine 90472
- Dr. Supervised Injection Intramuscular 90772
- Dr. Supervised Injection Intravenous 90774
- Parenteral Fluids IV Infusion For Hydration 90760
- IV Infusion For Hydration Each Additional Hour 90761

Buttons: Add to Encounter, Add to Favorite List

1) Go to Disposition Page

o M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

Released w/o Limitations

Encounter Context

☐ Related to Injury/Accident?

Billing and Admin

Billing Chief Complaint: V70.0 - visit for: routine adult H&P

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Options...

Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)? Yes ?

Follow Up

☐ PRN When: For Tx:

☐ With PCM In Clinic:

Comments:

Discussed

☐ All Items Discussed

☐ Diagnosis ☐ Potential Side Effects

☐ Medication(s)/Treatment(s) ☐ Alternatives

indicated understanding Comments ...

Time Factor

☐ >50% time spent counseling or coordinating care ☐ Total face to face or floor time in minutes: 30

2) Select Prev Med Eval/Mgt (Preventive Medicine Evaluation and Management) as the Service Type

Service Type: Outpatient Visit

HPI

Exam	Dx/Mgt Options	Complexity of Data	Overall MDM	Problem Risk	Tests Risk	Mgt Risk	Overall Risk
1 2 3	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4

Default Calculation

With User overrides:

USER, TEST: Military Clinical Desktop - Disposition (Privacy Act of 1974/FOUO) - Training System

File Edit View Go Tools Actions Help

Save Providers SQ A/P Sign Cancel Clear All Close

SUAREZ, EDUARDO A 20/454-72-3217 45yo M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

Folder List

- Appointments
- Telephone Consult
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunizations Adm
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO,
 - Demographics
 - Health History
 - Problems
 - Meds
 - Allergy
 - Wellness
 - Immunizations
 - Vital Signs Rev
 - PKC Couplers
 - Readiness
 - Patient Quesic
 - Lab
 - Radiology
 - Clinical Notes
 - Previous Encounte
 - Flowsheets
 - Current Encounter
 - Screening
 - Vital Signs Entr
 - S/O
 - A/P
 - Disposition

Disposition

Released w/o Limitations

Encounter Context

☐ Related to Injury/Accident?

Follow Up

☐ PRN When: For Tx:

☐ With PCM In Clinic:

Comments:

Discussed

☐ All Items Discussed

☐ Diagnosis ☐ Potential Side Effects

☐ Medication(s)/Treatment(s) ☐ Alternatives

Billing and Admin

Billing Chief Complaint: V70.0 - visit for: routine adult H&P

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Options...

Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)? Yes ?

Additional E&M Coding

Patient Status: Established Patient Exam Type: General Multi-System

Setting: Outpatient

Service Type: Prev Med Eval / Mgt

HPI	ROS	PFSH	Overall History	Exam	Dx/Mgt Options	Complexity of Data	Overall MDM	Problem Risk	Tests Risk	Mgt Risk	Overall Risk
1 2	1 2 3	1 2	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4

Default Calculation: 99396 - Preventive Medicine Estab Patient Checkup Adult 40-64

With User overrides:

3) Select Additional E&M Coding Tab

USER, TEST: Military Clinical Desktop - Disposition (Privacy Act of 1974/FOUO) - Training System

File Edit View Go Tools Actions Help

Save Providers SQ A/P Sign Cancel Clear All Close

SUAREZ, EDUARDO A 20/454-72-3217 45yo M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

Folder List

- Appointments
- Telephone Consult
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunizations Adm
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO A
 - Demographics
 - Health History
 - Problems
 - Meds
 - Allergy
 - Wellness
 - Immunizations
 - Vital Signs Rev
 - PKC Couplers
 - Readiness
 - Patient Quesic
 - Lab
 - Radiology
 - Clinical Notes
 - Previous Encounte
 - Flowsheets
 - Current Encounter
 - Screening
 - Vital Signs Entr
 - S/O
 - A/P
 - Disposition

Disposition: Released w/o Limitations

Encounter Context

☐ Related to Injury/Accident?

Follow Up

☐ PRN When: For Tx:

☐ With PCM In Clinic:

Comments:

Billing and Admin

Billing Chief Complaint: V70.0 - visit for: routine adult H&P

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Opti

Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)? Yes ?

or coordinating care

Calculated Selection Additional E&M Coding

E&M Code 1: 99396 - Periodic Comprehensive Preventive Med Eval, 40-64 y.o.

Modifier(s)

Clear

Associated Diagnoses

☒ visit for: routine adult HP

☐ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service: 1

E&M Code 2:

Modifier(s)

Clear

Associated Diagnoses

☐ visit for: routine adult HP

☒ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service:

4) Under E&M Code 1, check the Preventive Medicine diagnosis (visit for: routine adult HP) and deselect the acute diagnosis (Tension Type Headache)

USER, TEST: Military Clinical Desktop - Disposition (Privacy Act of 1974/FOUO) - Training System

File Edit View Go Tools Actions Help

Save Providers SQ A/P Sign Cancel Clear All Close

SUAREZ, EDUARDO A 20/454-72-3217 45yo M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

Folder List

- Appointments
- Telephone Consult
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunizations Adm
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO,
 - Demographics
 - Health History
 - Problems
 - Meds
 - Allergy
 - Wellness
 - Immunizations
 - Vital Signs Rev
 - PKC Couplers
 - Readiness
 - Patient Questic
 - Lab
 - Radiology
 - Clinical Notes
 - Previous Encounte
 - Flowsheets
 - Current Encounter
 - Screening
 - Vital Signs Entr
 - S/O
 - A/P
 - Disposition

Disposition: Released w/o Limitations

Encounter Context

☐ Related to Injury/Accident?

Follow Up

☐ PRN When: For Tx:

☐ With PCM In Clinic:

Comments:

Discussed

☐ All Items Discussed

☐ Diagnosis ☐ Potential Side Effects

Billing and Admin

Billing Chief Complaint: V70.0 - visit for: routine adult H&P

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Options...

Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)? Yes ?

Calculated Selection Additional E&M Coding

E&M Code 1: 99396 - Periodic Comprehensive Preventive Med Ev

Modifier(s)

Clear

E&M Code 2:

Modifier(s)

Clear

TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service: 1

Associated Diagnoses

☐ visit for: routine adult HP

☒ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service:

5) Under E&M Code 2, check the acute diagnosis (Tension Type Headache) and deselect the Preventive Medicine diagnosis (visit for: routine adult HP)

File Edit View Go Tools Actions Help

Save Providers SQ A/P Sign Cancel Clear All Close

SUAREZ, EDUARDO

Folder List

- Appointments
- Telephone C
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunization
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO
- Demographics
- Health History
- Problems
- Meds
- Allergy
- Wellness
- Immunizations
- Vital Signs Rev
- PKC Couplers
- Readiness
- Patient Questic
- Lab
- Radiology
- Clinical Notes
- Previous Encounte
- Flowsheets
- Current Encounter
- Screening
- Vital Signs Entr
- S/O
- A/P
- Disposition

Selection

E&M Category:

- Prolonged Services
- Prolonged Services
- Office/Outpatient Visit
- Outpatient Consults
- Preventive Medicine Eval
- Preventive Medicine/Risk Factor Counseling
- 99499/Standby/Special E&M Services
- Emergency Services
- Team Conferences
- 99358 Prolonged Non-Direct MD Services, 1st hour
- 99359 Prolonged Non-Direct MD Services, each add. ...

Select Exam Code:

E&M Description:

OK

Cancel

Comments ...

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Options...

Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)? Yes ?

Time Factor

>50% time spent counseling Total face to face or floor 20 +

Calculated Selection Additional E&M Coding

E&M Code 1: 99396 - Periodic Comprehensive Preventive Med Eval, 40-64 y.

Modifier(s)

Clear

E&M Code 2:

Modifier(s)

Clear

Units Of Service: 1

Associated Diagnoses

visit for: routine adult HP

TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service:

7) From the E&M Category drop down menu, select Office/Outpatient Visit

6) Select this button (...) to bring up the Selection Menu above

8) Select the appropriate E&M code using the description to assist in determining correct code (or consult with local coder)

The screenshot shows a medical coding software interface. On the left is a 'Folder List' with various medical history categories. The main window is titled 'E&M' and contains a 'Selection E&M Code' field showing '99213 (Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3)'. Below this is a table of 'E&M Codes' with columns 'E&M' and 'Evaluation & Management'. The code '99213' is selected. To the right of the table is a box labeled 'E&M Description' which contains the text: 'Established, Outpatient Visit, -2 of 3: Expanded Hx, Expanded Exam, Low Complexity MDM, -Low/Moderate Severity Problem, -Typically 15 minutes'. Below the table and description box are fields for 'Appt Class' (Outpatient), 'Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)?' (Yes), 'Time Factor' (checkbox for >50% time spent counseling), and 'Total face to face or floor time in minutes' (30). At the bottom, there are sections for 'E&M Code 1' (99396 - Periodic Comprehensive Preventive Med Eval, 40-64 y.o.) and 'E&M Code 2' (empty), each with a 'Modifier(s)' field and 'Associated Diagnoses' section. The 'Associated Diagnoses' section for Code 1 has checkboxes for 'visit for: routine adult HP' (checked) and 'TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE' (unchecked). The 'Units Of Service' for Code 1 is set to 1.

E&M	Evaluation & Management
99204	New Outpatient Visit, Lvl 4
99205	New Outpatient Visit, Lvl 5
99211	Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 1 (& non-privileged pro
99212	Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 2
99213	Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3
99214	Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 4
99215	Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 5

E&M Description:
 Established, Outpatient Visit,
 -2 of 3: Expanded Hx, Expanded Exam, Low Complexity MDM,
 -Low/Moderate Severity Problem,
 -Typically 15 minutes

E&M Code 1: 99396 - Periodic Comprehensive Preventive Med Eval, 40-64 y.o.
Modifier(s):
Associated Diagnoses:
☒ visit for: routine adult HP
☐ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE
Units Of Service: 1

E&M Code 2:
Modifier(s):
Associated Diagnoses:
☐ visit for: routine adult HP
☒ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE
Units Of Service:

Folder List

- Appointments
- Telephone Consult
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunizations Adm
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO A
- Demographics
- Health History
- Problems
- Meds
- Allergy
- Wellness
- Immunizations
- Vital Signs Rev
- PKC Couplers
- Readiness
- Patient Questio
- Lab
- Radiology
- Clinical Notes
- Previous Encounte
- Flowsheets
- Current Encounter
- Screening
- Vital Signs Entr
- S/O
- A/P
- Disposition

Disposition: Released w/o Limitations

Encounter Context

☐ Related to Injury/Accident?

Billing and Admin

Billing Chief Complaint: V70.0 - visit for: routine adult H&P

Appt Class: Outpatient

Meets Outpt

Calculated

E&M Code 1: 99213 - Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3

Modifier(s)

Clear

E&M Code 2: 99213 - Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3

Modifier(s)

Clear

21 - PROLONGED E&M SERVICES
24 - UNRELATED E&M BY SAME PHYS DURING POST-OP
25 - SIGNIFICANT, SEPARATE E&M SVC BY SAME PHYSICIAN
27 - MULTIPLE OUTPATIENT E&M ENCOUNTERS ON SAME DATE
32 - MANDATED SERVICES
52 - REDUCED SERVICES
57 - DECISION FOR SURGERY

Follow Up

☐ PRN When: For Tx:

☐ With PCM In Clinic:

Comments:

Discussed

☐ All Items Discussed

☐ Diagnosis ☐ Potential Side Effects

☐ Medication(s)/Treatment(s) ☐ Alternatives

indicated understanding

Comments ...

Time Factor

Associated Diagnoses

☐ visit for: routine adult HP

☒ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service: 1

9) Select the Modifier drop-down menu and select number 25 (SIGNIFICANT, SEPARATE E&M SVC BY SAME PHYSICIAN)

USER, TEST: Military Clinical Desktop - Disposition (Privacy Act of 1974/FOUO) - Training System

File Edit View Go Tools Actions Help

Save Providers SQ A/P **Sign** Cancel

SUAREZ, EDUARDO Sign Encounter 201404-72-3217 45yo M

Folder List

- Appointments
- Telephone Consult
- Search
- Patient List
- Consult Log
- Co-signs
- New Results
- Reports
- Tools
- Sign Orders
- CHCS-I
- Immunizations Adm
- SUAREZ, EDUARDO
- Demographics
- Health History
- Problems
- Meds
- Allergy
- Wellness
- Immunizations
- Vital Signs Rev
- PKC Couplers
- Readiness
- Patient Questic
- Lab
- Radiology
- Clinical Notes
- Previous Encounte
- Flowsheets
- Current Encounter
- Screening
- Vital Signs Entr
- S/O
- A/P
- Disposition

Disposition: Released w/o Limitations

Encounter Context

☐ Related to Injury/Accident?

Billing and Admin

Billing Chief Complaint: V70.0 - visit for: routine adult H&P

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Options...

Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)? Yes ?

With PCM In Clinic: Comments:

Discussed

☐ All Items Discussed

☐ Diagnosis ☐ Potential Side Effects

☐ Medication(s)/Treatment(s) ☐ Alternatives

indicated understanding Comments ...

Time Factor

☐ >50% time spent counseling or coordinating care ☒ Total face to face or floor time in minutes: 30

Calculated Selection Additional E&M Coding

E&M Code 1: 99396 - Periodic Comprehensive Preventive Med Eval, 40-64 y.o.

Modifier(s)

Clear

Associated Diagnoses

☒ visit for: routine adult HP

☐ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service: 1

E&M Code 2: 99213 - Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3

Modifier(s) 25 - SIGNIFICANT, SEPARATE E&M SVC BY SAME PH

Clear

Associated Diagnoses

☐ visit for: routine adult HP

☒ TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE

Units Of Service: 1

10) You have successfully documented the 25 modifier and received credit for both E&M codes! Now select Sign to complete the note.



For More Information...



- AMEDD AHLTA Homepage
 - <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/406> (AKO password required)
- AHLTA Video Tutorials
 - <http://www-nmcp.mar.med.navy.mil/AHLTA/AHLTA%20Training%20Tools/index.html>

I would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have for future **AHLTA 2 Minute Pearls**. Please contact me at the following:

MAJ Mark Stackle, MD (AHLTA Program Office)

- Email: mark.stackle@us.army.mil

****(If you would like to receive future versions of the AHLTA 2 Minute Pearls directly, please email Laskia Brockenberry at Laskia.Brockenberry@us.army.mil to be added to the distribution list)