

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.

The screenshot displays a medical software interface for patient management. A yellow callout box highlights the instruction: "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." The patient's name is SUAREZ, EDUARDO, and the date of birth is 10 Sep 1961.

The main window shows a list of diagnoses with the following columns: Priority, ICD, Diagnosis, Chronic/Acute, and Type. The first diagnosis is V70.0, "visit for: routine adult H&P", which is marked as Acute and New. The second diagnosis is 307.81, "TENSION-TYPE HEADACHE", marked as Chronic and New. The Plan/Comments section includes: "Patient with all health maintenance items up to date. Advised pt to f/u in 1 year for routine exam." and "COLORECTAL CANCER SCREEN;FECAL-OCCULT BLOOD TEST,1-3 SIM DET(G0107) PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING; DIGITAL RECTAL EXAMINATION(G0102)".

Below the diagnosis list, there are tabs for "Diagnosis", "Order Sets", "Procedure", "Reminders", "Order Consults", "Order Lab", "Order Rad", "Order Med", and "Other Therapies". The "Procedure" tab is selected, showing a search bar and a list of procedures. The search criteria are "Standard Procedures (CPT s)" and "HCPCS & Durable Med Equip (DME)". The "Description of Procedures" list includes: "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", and "IV Infusion For Hydration Each Additional Hour 90761".

Buttons for "Add to Encounter" and "Add to Favorite List" are visible at the bottom of the procedure list.

1) Go to Disposition Page

o M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

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

[] indicated understanding [Comments ...]

Time Factor

>50% time spent counseling or coordinating care Total face to face or floor time in minutes: 30 [+] [-]

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 | Add

Patient Status: [Established Patient]

Setting: [Outpatient]

Service Type: [Outpatient Visit]

HPI [1] [2] [1]

Default Calculation []

With User overrides []

Exam [1] [2] [3] [1] [2] [3] [4] [1] [2] [3] [4] [1] [2] [3] [4] [1] [2] [3] [4] [1] [2] [3] [4]

Dx/Mgt Options [1] [2] [3] [4]

Complexity of Data [1] [2] [3] [4]

Overall MDM [1] [2] [3] [4]

Problem Risk [1] [2] [3] [4]

Tests Risk [1] [2] [3] [4]

Mgt Risk [1] [2] [3] [4]

Overall Risk [1] [2] [3] [4]

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

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
 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	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				

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 201454-72-3217 45yo M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

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 - Previous Encounte
 - Flowsheets
 - Current Encounter
 - Screening
 - Vital Signs Entr
 - S/D
 - A/P
 - Disposition

Disposition: Released w/o Limitations

Follow Up:

- PRN When: [] For Tx: []
- With PCM In Clinic: []
- Comments: []

Encounter Context:

- Related to Injury/Accident? []

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 201454-72-3217 45yo M LCDR DOB:10 Sep 1961

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 - Flowsheets
 - Current Encounter
 - Screening
 - Vital Signs Entr
 - S/D
 - 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 []

TENSION-TYPE HEA

Units Of Service: 1

E&M Code 2: []

Modifier(s) [] [] []

Clear []

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, EDUA

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- Immunization
- SUAREZ, EDUA
- Demographics
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- Allergy
- Wellness
- Immunizations
- Vital Signs Rev
- PKC Couplers
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Selection

E&M Category:

- 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 E&M Code:

OK

Cancel

E&M Description:

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 software interface for selecting E&M codes. On the left is a 'Folder List' with various medical categories. The main window has a 'Selection E&M Code:' field containing '99213 (Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3)'. Below this is a table of 'E&M Codes' with '99213 Est Outpatient Visit, Lvl 3' selected. To the right of the table is a text area for 'E&M Description' containing: 'Established, Outpatient Visit, -2 of 3: Expanded Hx, Expanded Exam, Low Complexity MDM, -Low/Moderate Severity Problem, -Typically 15 minutes'. Below the table are fields for 'Appt Class' (Outpatient), 'Meets Outpt Visit Criteria (Workload)?' (Yes), and 'Time Factor' (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', each with 'Associated Diagnoses' and 'Units Of Service' fields.

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

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- 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

indicated understanding [] Comments ... []

Billing and Admin

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

Appt Class: Outpatient Admin Options... []

Time Factor: []

Meets Outpt []

Calculated []

E&M Code 1: []

Modifier(s) []

Clear []

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

Modifier(s)

- 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

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

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- 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: [dropdown]

Comments: [text area]

Discussed

All Items Discussed

Diagnosis Potential Side Effects

Medication(s)/Treatment(s) Alternatives

[dropdown] 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) [dropdown]

Clear [button]

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 [dropdown]

Clear [button]

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)