

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader question: 99339-99340 Not Automatic Choice for Assisted Living Facility Coding

Question: One of our physicians evaluated a new patient in an assisted living facility for sinusitis. Should we bill the encounter as 99339 or 99340?

Washington Subscriber

Answer: Neither code applies to the situation. The patient received a face-to-face E/M service that your physician provided in a domiciliary or rest home environment. Don't confuse the circumstances with codes for care plan oversight (CPO) of a patient in a home, domiciliary, or rest home, which includes an assisted living facility (99339-99340). Instead, use E/M service codes for new-patient domiciliary, rest home, or custodial care services (99324-99328), depending on the documented level of the service.

Example: Suppose the physician visited the new patient in the assisted living facility and was able to assess the patient's medical condition and documented a problem focused history and problem focused examination and proceeded to treat and manage the patient using straightforward medical decision You would report 99324 (Domiciliary or rest home visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient ... Physicians typically spend 20 minutes with the patient and/or family or caregiver).