

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Limit Your Follow-Up Consult Charges

Question: If the internist wants to follow up with a patient once a month after an initial consultation, what's the limit to the number of follow-up consults we can bill?

Montana Subscriber

Answer: You can't report consultation codes (99241-99275) unless another physician requests your internist's advice or opinion, or if the internist is providing the subsequent visits to complete the initial consultation, according to the Medicare Carriers Manual, section 30.6.10. In your case, your physician is initiating the follow-up visit, so you should report the appropriate established-patient code (99211-99215).