

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Meet 3 Critical Care Criteria

Question: If a patient takes a fall in our office and requires critical care management prior to the ambulance coming, can I bill a critical care code for that?

Florida Subscriber

Answer: Yes, you can use 99291 (Critical care, evaluation and management of the critically ill or critically injured patient; first 30-74 minutes) with place of service code 11 (Office) provided the service meets the following criteria:

" Your physician spends at least 30 minutes working on that patient's critical condition.

" The total critical care time must be face-to-face.

" You do not include procedure time to meet the critical care time threshold.