

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Question: Report 99271 Series for Second Opinions

Question: One of my former patients, whom I haven't seen in more than a year, came to my office for a second opinion concerning another physician's recommendation for total knee replacement (27447). Should I report an established patient visit or a confirmatory consultation?

Kansas Subscriber

Answer: The Confirmatory Consultations section of CPT (99271-99275) references new or established patients, so you can still report this code series despite the fact that you examined an established patient.

Remember that CPT includes "opinion or advice only" in the confirmatory consultation codes. If you provided any E/M services in addition to your opinion, report the appropriate established patient E/M code (99211-99215).

You Be the Coder and Reader Questions were reviewed by **Laureen Jandroep, OTR, CPC, CCS-PCPC-H, CCS**, director and senior instructor for the CRN Institute, an online coding certification training center.