

Review of professional claims with emergency room level 5 E/M codes

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We have identified an increasing trend in the billing of emergency room (ER) level 5 Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes. To help manage increasing healthcare costs, beginning August 1, 2019, we will initiate the post-pay review of professional ER claims billed with level 5 E/M Codes (99285 or G0384) to help ensure documentation meets or exceeds the components necessary to support its billing. Professional ER claims with the highest potential for up-coding will be selected.

We will request documentation for identified claims, and level 5 ER professional reviews will evaluate the appropriate use of the level 5 ER code based on the AMA CPT coding manuals, and Anthem guidelines. Reimbursement will be based on the ER E/M code the submitted documentation supports.

Please note, these coding reviews are not related to any prior notifications of reviews which examine the appropriate use of ERs for non-emergencies, nor do they include the examination of emergent versus non-emergent reasons patient utilize emergency room services.

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