

2023 Evaluation and Management Services Changes:

Prolonged Services

Updated January 2025

For **CY 2023**, two new prolonged services codes will be available for a 15-minute prolonged service in the inpatient or observation setting. These codes mirror the 15-minute [prolonged services codes introduced in 2021](#) for the office and outpatient setting (CPT code 99417 and HCPCS code G2212).¹

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services created their own code to describe a 15-minute prolonged services code in the inpatient and outpatient setting, which has slightly different reporting guidelines than CPT code 99418. However, the codes have many of the same attributes, as outlined below.

| | CPT Code 99418 | HCPCS Code G0316 |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Code Description | Prolonged inpatient or observation evaluation and management service(s) of 15 minutes beyond the reported time of the primary service (CPT® code 99223, 99233, 99236, 99255, 99306, 99310). | Prolonged hospital inpatient or observation care evaluation and management service(s) with or without direct patient contact 15 minutes beyond the total time for the primary service (either CPT® code 99223, 99233, 99236) |
| Reportable To | Private payers only, unless otherwise directed to use HCPCS code G3016 | CMS only, unless otherwise directed by a private payer |
| Reporting Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary service selected based on time only (not medical decision making). With or without direct patient contact. May be reported for a 15-minute unit of service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary service selected based on time only (not medical decision making). With or without direct patient contact. May only be reported when an additional 15 minutes is spent on the service according to the CMS corrections notice. |

¹ American Medical Association. "CPT® Evaluation and Management (E/M) Code and Guideline Changes". 2022. <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2023-e-m-descriptors-guidelines.pdf>

Inpatient & Observation Prolonged Services Reporting Examples: Reporting CPT Code 99418 vs. HCPCS Code G0316

Primary Service

99236–Hospital inpatient or observation care, for the evaluation and management of a patient including admission and discharge on the same date, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making.

CPT Code 99418

The time for the prolonged service (99418) begins after the **required** time for the primary service has been met. The prolonged services CPT code may be reported when the full 15 minutes *after* the time of the primary service is reached.

| CPT Code 99418 Reporting Example | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| CPT Code 99236 | 85 minutes |
| CPT Code 99418 | 15 minutes |
| Total Time | 100 minutes (Report CPT codes 99236 + 99418) |

HCPCS Code G0316

A correction notice² to the 2023 Medical Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule³ states G0316 may only be reported when 15 minutes beyond the **total** time of the primary procedure is reached.

| HCPCS Code G0316 Reporting Example | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| CPT Code 99236 | 75 minutes Prolonged Service period begins at 95 minutes (the total time of the service) |
| HCPCS Code G0316 | 15 minutes |

² [Medicare and Medicaid Programs, CY 2023 Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes, Corrections](#). 15 March 2023.

³ [Medicare and Medicaid Programs, CY 2023 Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies](#)

| | |
|------------|--|
| Total Time | 110 minutes (Report CPT code 99236 + HCPCS code G0316) |
|------------|--|

Other Prolonged Services Updates

As of January 1, 2023, Prolonged Services with Direct Patient Contact (99354-99357) will be deleted from the American Medical Association CPT Professional Edition as it overlaps with the work of CPT codes 99417 and 99418 (as well as HCPCS codes G2212 and G0316).

CPT codes 99358 and 99359 describe prolonged services on a different day than the primary E/M service. The codes are still included in the 2023 AMA CPT Professional Edition; however, CMS is making them “inactive” as of January 1, 2023. Therefore, the codes will not be reportable for Medicare claims.

Resources

American Medical Association (AMA)

2023 CPT® Professional Edition

[CPT® Evaluation and Management \(E/M\) Code and Guideline Changes](#)

American Society of Clinical Oncology

[Important Updates to Evaluation and Management Services in 2023](#)

[2023 Evaluation and Management Changes: Selecting a Code Based on Time](#)

[2023 Evaluation and Management Changes: Medical Decision Making Simplified](#)

[2023 Evaluation and Management Changes: Inpatient, Observation, and Discharge](#)

[2023 Evaluation and Management Changes: Consultations](#)

[2023 Evaluation and Management Changes: Guideline Updates, Clarifications, and Corrections](#)