



## Evaluation and Management (E&M) Billing Code FAQ - *Treating Tobacco use Disorder in Drug Medi-Cal Systems of Care*

### What are the codes?

Evaluation and Management (E/M) office visit CPT® codes [99202-99205 (for new patients) and 99211-99215 for established patients] can be used to code for medication services including medications for tobacco use disorder (TUD). See the AAFP page <http://www.aafp.org/pubs/fpm/issues/2022/0100/p26.html> for a brief background on office visit CPT® codes.

Drug Medi-Cal also includes HCPCS codes H0004 and H0005 that can be used to bill for individual / group counseling (respectively) that includes smoking cessation counseling when the patient in a Drug Medi-Cal setting has a primary diagnosis of a non-tobacco substance use disorder.

### What do the billing codes cover?

These office visit CPT® E&M codes cover the medical clinician's time evaluating patients for and prescribing medications for tobacco use disorder (TUD).

HCPCS codes H0004 and H0005 can be used by any designated DMC-ODS practitioner to deliver counseling.

### Who can use them?

Office visit CPT® E&M codes are billable by clinicians whose scope of practice includes patient evaluation and medication management, and within the Drug Medi-Cal system, this includes Medical Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants.

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## Do patients have to be in the Drug Medi-Cal system?

*Yes. Office visit CPT® E&M codes apply to patients admitted to a Drug Medi-Cal certified treatment program when the patient has a non-tobacco substance use disorder, as having a non-tobacco SUD is a requirement for a Medi-Cal beneficiary to receive Drug Medi-Cal funded services.*

## Are these codes specific to Tobacco Use Disorder (TUD)?

*Office visit CPT® E&M codes are not specific to Tobacco Use Disorder (TUD), but as TUD is in the DSM-5 there is no state restriction on these E&M codes being used to treat TUD in patients within the specialty SUD system.*

## Do the same codes cover medications for TUD?

*No. Office visit CPT® E&M codes cover the clinicians' time evaluating the patients and prescribing medications. The cost of the medications themselves billed by the dispensing pharmacy directly to Medi-Cal Rx.*

## How much can we bill for?

*Each county in CA sets their own rate for E&M codes, but the state has established a significantly higher reimbursement rate than the previous rate existing prior to July 1. Los Angeles County's rates are posted via <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/providers/manuals-bulletins-and-forms.htm?tm#bulletins> (see Rates Standards Matrix FY 23-24).*

## What are the restrictions?

*There are no restrictions for treating tobacco use disorder (TUD) in patients admitted to a Drug Medi-Cal contracted program when the patient has a non-tobacco substance use disorder.*

## Can we bill these codes on top of other Drug Medi-Cal billable services?

*Each county in CA sets their own rate for E&M codes, and the state Medi-Cal program has clarified that office visit CPT® E&M codes can be billed on top of the daily rate that SUD treatment facilities.*

## When did these codes for the Drug Medi-Cal program go into effect?

*July 1, 2023, throughout the state of California!*

## How can I learn more about resources to help integrate cessation into my care team workflow?

*Visit the California Center for Tobacco Cessation at [CaCTC.ucsf.edu](http://CaCTC.ucsf.edu), call toll-free **877-509-3786** for a TA consultation or email Program Manager, Jessica Safier at [Jessica.Safier@ucsf.edu](mailto:Jessica.Safier@ucsf.edu),*

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