

Coding for Mental Health in Primary Care

Conditions: ADHD, Anxiety, Depression

Billing by Medical Decision Making

Level 3 visit 99203/99213:	One stable condition, such as no change in medication (simple refill), or significant side effects
Level 4 visit 99204/99214:	Two stable conditions, or an exacerbation of one condition. Examples are a medication change, or adjustment, or significant side effects of medication
Level 5 visit 99205/99215:	Suicidal Ideation which needs management, or a life-threatening condition

Billing by Time Spent

Consider billing by time when:

Encounters where you are not prescribing, and/or the duration of time spent does not reflect coding when using medical decision making, OR level of service does not reflect the level of work you have done

New Patients	99203	30 minutes
	99204	45 minutes
	99205	60-74 minutes

Established Patients	99213	20 minutes
	99214	30 minutes
	99215	40-54 minutes

Other Helpful Codes

99417	Prolonged service - an add-on code for each 15 min over a 54-minute level 5 visit (55-69 minutes)
96127	Rating scales: Vanderbilt/Conner's, PHQ-9, SCARED, Columbia, GAD7, PSC17 (attached) may use up to 3 units per day of service
99451/2	Conferring with another provider or specialist not on same day as office visit
G2211	Complex care requiring extra considerations. Examples: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Autism, or other delays complicating diagnosis
Modifier -25	Use this on an office visit when either billing for rating scales or when coding for a sick and well visit simultaneously

Additional advice:

- Don't be afraid to code well and sick visits at the same time if indicated.
- Use Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) codes when applicable, they often allow a higher level of service. For a list of most SDOH codes, [click here](#)