



Coding for After Hours and Other Special Services

The special services codes are reported in addition to the code(s) for an E/M service when that service is provided after the practice's normal business hours to allow care in the practice as opposed to sending a patient to an urgent care clinic or ED.

CPT codes 99050-99060

- ▶ provide a mechanism for reporting special services provided as an adjunct to another basic service rendered (eg, there may be circumstances in which services are provided on an emergency basis in the office that disrupt other scheduled office services).
- ▶ can be reported by any physician/QHP (other qualified health care professional)¹ per CPT.
- ▶ can require more than one code be reported on the same day of service (e.g., **99058** and **99051** for services provided on an emergency basis during regularly scheduled evening or weekend hours) to describe the services provided appropriately.²
- ▶ have no assigned relative value units.²
- ▶ do not require a modifier to be added to the E/M service.
- ▶ are neither preceded by the telemedicine symbol (★) nor included in CPT Appendix P to indicate they are appropriate for reporting as a telemedicine service.²

99050 Services provided in the office at times other than regularly scheduled office hours or days when the office is normally closed (e.g., holidays, Saturday, or Sunday), in addition to basic service

- ▶ Used when patients are seen when the practice is normally “closed” or outside of regularly scheduled/posted office hours (e.g.; an office has regularly posted office hours of Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and a patient is seen by the physician/QHP at 7:00 PM or during the weekend outside of the normally scheduled office time

¹ Other qualified health care professional is defined by CPT as an individual who is qualified by education, training, licensure/regulation (when applicable), and facility privileging (when applicable) who performs a professional service within his/her scope of practice and independently reports that professional service.

² Payer policies vary and it is recommended to contact payers regarding payment for after-hours services.

- ▶ Evenings and holidays are not clearly defined by CPT²
- ▶ Do not report **99050** when:
 - The physician/QHP is running late and sees a patient after regularly posted office hours.

99051 Service(s) provided in the office during regularly scheduled evening, weekend, or holiday office hours, in addition to basic service

- ▶ Used when patients are seen when the practice has regularly scheduled expanded evening hours or regularly scheduled weekend/holiday hours
- ▶ Can be reported in addition to sick/urgent visits, but also for visits addressing chronic medical conditions and preventive medicine services
- ▶ Evenings and holidays are not clearly defined by CPT.²
- ▶ Do not report **99051** when:
 - The physician/QHP is running late and sees a patient after regularly posted office hours.

99053 Service(s) provided between 10:00 PM and 8:00 AM at 24-hour facility, in addition to basic service

- ▶ Can be reported by any physician/QHP
- ▶ Requires that the facility is open 24 hours

99056 Service(s) typically provided in the office, provided out of the office at request of patient, in addition to basic service

99058 Service(s) provided on an emergency basis in the office, which disrupts other scheduled office services, in addition to basic service

- ▶ Reported when the condition of an already scheduled patient requires immediate attention of the physician/QHP (eg, asthma attack, seizure taking place while patient is in the office) and that physician/QHP stops what they are doing to attend to the patient
- ▶ Diagnosis should support the medical necessity for reporting this service
- ▶ Do not report for:
 - Walk-ins
 - Patients you “fit” into the schedule
 - Siblings you add on during the encounter

99060 Service(s) provided on an emergency basis, out of the office, which disrupts other scheduled office services, in addition to basic service

Vignettes

1. A practice has posted office hours from 8am until 4pm. The office closes, but the physician receives a phone call at 5pm from a parent that their child is sick. The physician decides to stick around and have the mom bring the child in. He sees the patient at 5:15.

Code it!

99050 is appropriate as the service was provided after posted office hours.

2. A practice has posted office hours from 10am until 7pm. Per their payer contracts, all appointments made after 6pm are considered “evening hours.” A patient is scheduled for a 6:15pm well child appointment.

Code it!

99051 is appropriate as the service was provided during regularly scheduled evening hours as defined by the payer.

- 3. A practice has office hours from 10 am until 6 pm. Per their payer contracts, all appointments made after 6 p.m. are considered “evening hours.” A patient is scheduled at 5:30 pm for a sick visit. Due to some earlier complicated patients, the physician is running 40 minutes late. The patient is seen at 6:10 p.m.

Code it!

Report only the appropriate E/M service as **99050/99051** are not reportable when a physician/QHP runs behind schedule for a non-emergency patient.

- 4. You spoke with a mom at 11 p.m. Due to the severity of the patients symptoms, you referred her to a community emergency department (ED). Because no pediatric physicians are in the ED, you decide to meet the patient there and see him at midnight.

Code it!

Report **99053** in addition to other E/M services provided.

- 5. A physician is called after hours. A mom believes that her 3-year-old “dislocated” his elbow. She is with him at the local park for another child’s soccer game. The physician is nearby, so the mom asks if he could swing by the park. The physician agrees and meets them there. After an exam, he confirms a nursemaid's elbow and talks to the mom about reducing it. She agrees, and the physician is able to reduce the elbow.

Code it!

Report **99056** in addition to other E/M services provided.

- 6. A patient presents for an acute office visit. The nurse checks the patient in and notices that the patient seems very pale and weak. As she leaves the room, the patient faints, so she goes into another exam room to have the doctor see this patient immediately, disrupting the office schedule because the physician spends a great deal of time with the patient.

Code it!

Report **99058** in addition to other E/M services provided.

- 7. As the on-call pediatrician at your local hospital, you are called in because a mom goes into labor with a pre-term baby. The hospital requires you to be there for the delivery. You leave the office immediately to attend the delivery.

Code it!

Report **99060** in addition to other E/M services provided.

Special Services at a Glance

| | In-Office | Out of Office | During Posted Office hours | After Posted Office hours | 24-Hour Facility | Emergency Basis |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 99050 | X | | | X | | |
| 99051 | X | | X | | | |

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|-------|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 99053 | | | | | X | |
| 99056 | | X | | | | |
| 99058 | X | | X | | | X |
| 99060 | | X | X | | | X |

