

<https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/emergency-preparedness-response-operations/current-emergencies/coronavirus-waivers>

Yesterday, CMS announced ways that beneficiaries can communicate with their doctors over the phone without going to the doctor's office in person for a full visit. CMS' announcement adds new services as well as additional flexibilities for existing services to allow for more services to be delivered via communications technologies during the public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19. This includes, for purposes of the PHE for COVID-19, the following:

- Telephone-only evaluation and management services – newly added services for the public health emergency; audio-only telephones can be used for these services. These may be used with both new and established patients.
- CPT codes 99441-99443 – for physicians and certain non-physician practitioners who are eligible to bill independently for evaluation and management services.
- CPT codes 98966-98968 –for other practitioners such as physical therapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), speech-language pathologists (SLPs), clinical psychologists, clinical social workers and certain other clinicians to bill for telephone-only assessment and management services.
- E-visits (or online evaluation and management services)
- CPT codes 99221-99223 – for physicians and certain non-physician practitioners who bill for evaluation and management services – these codes can also be used for new patients (previously limited to established patients only).
- HCPCS codes G2061-G2063 – clarifies that PTs, OTs, SLPs, clinical psychologists, and clinical social workers are eligible to bill these codes and allows for them to be used for new patients in addition to established patients.
- Virtual check-in (brief communication technology-based service) (HCPCS code G2012) and remote evaluation of recorded video and/or images (G2010) - allows for them to be used for new patients in addition to established patients and also allows them to be used by other practitioners such as PTs, OTs, SLPs, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers.

A complete discussion of these policies is available in the interim final rule, which can be viewed at:<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-final-ifc.pdf>. The discussion of e-visits and virtual check-in policies begins on page 50, and the discussion of telephone-only assessment and management services begins on page 122.

For more information on the COVID-19 waivers and guidance, including the interim final rule, please go to the CMS COVID-19 flexibilities webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/emergency-preparedness-response-operations/current-emergencies/coronavirus-waivers>.