

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 29.17
TITLE: EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES (OFFICE VISITS)
WITH SURGERY

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2)(iv)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

A. March 3, 1992

B. Effective 1-1-98, Evaluation and Management Service Visits allowable amount is included in the procedure payment and will not be reimbursed as a separate charge.

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

36415, 99024, 99201-99215, and 99241-99255

III. DESCRIPTION

Surgery performed at the time of an evaluation and management (E&M) **office visit**.

IV. POLICY

A. When a surgical procedure is performed at the time of an **office visit**, only the surgical procedure is payable unless:

1. The review indicates that the evaluation and management service is performed for a new diagnosis.
2. Modifier -25 is used.

Note: When a surgical procedure is performed at the time of an office visit, both the office visit and the surgical procedure are covered when modifier -25 is billed. Modifier -25 indicates that the patient's condition requires a significant, separately identifiable E&M service above and beyond the usual preoperative and postoperative care associated with the procedure. If the modifier is not used, the charge for the office visit will be denied.

3. The surgical procedure is a “starred” CPT procedure and the evaluation and management service is for a new patient.

4. The starred procedure is CPT 36415 (routine venipuncture or finger/heel/ear stick for collection of a specimen(s)).

5. The evaluation and management services are for initial consultations (99241-99255).

B. Procedure code 99024 is not reimbursed separately as payments for these services are included in the payment of other services.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. E&M services are also denied when billed with certain substantial diagnostic or therapeutic non-surgical procedure (see [Chapter 2, Section 15.1](#), *Evaluation and Management Services (Office Visits) General*).

B. In some instances, it is not appropriate to reimburse a minor surgical procedure and deny the evaluation and management service. CPT guidelines will be followed in the majority of the cases (see [Chapter 12, Section 15.1](#), *Evaluation and Management Services (Office Visits) General*).

END OF POLICY