

# Podiatry–Relevant CPT® Changes for 2023

It’s important to keep up-to-date.

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Every year, a new Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code set is released by the American Medical Association that took effect on January 1. Every year there are changes, additions, and deletions relevant to podiatrists. Here, some of these changes most pertinent to podiatrists are shared. CPT is a registered trademark of and copyright (2022) by the American Medical Association with all rights reserved and this information is shared for educational purposes.

## Evaluation and Management Level Selection

The biggest change for 2023 deals with how certain evaluation and management (E&M) levels are selected. This was covered extensively in the November/December 2022 edition of *Podiatry Management*. The summary of those changes is that effective January 1, 2023,<sup>1</sup> the levels of office or other outpatient, hospital inpatient and observation care, consultation, emergency department, nursing facility, and home or residence E&M services are now selected

based on medical decision-making only or total time only.

## E&M Type Consolidation

Effective January 1, 2023 Observation Care E&M CPT codes were

deleted. CPT 99218–99220 and 99224–99226 no longer exists. Corresponding with this change, the title of the Hospital Inpatient E&M codes (CPT 99221–99223 and 99231–99233) will change to “Hospital Inpatient or Observation Care E&M.” With this change, providers will use the same E&M codes for patients admitted to the hospital under both observation and inpatient status.

set for patients seen in any of the following settings:

- Domiciliary
- Rest home
- Custodial care
- Home

The following CPT codes were deleted effective January 1, 2023:

CPT 99241—Office consultation for a new or established patient, which requires these three key components: a problem-focused history; problem-focused examination; and straightforward medical decision-making.

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## CPT\* Changes (from page 37)

CPT 99251—Initial inpatient consultation for a new or established patient, which requires these three key components: a problem-focused history; a problem-focused examination; and straightforward medical decision-making.

CPT 99318—Evaluation and management of a patient involving an annual nursing facility assessment, which requires these 3 key components: a detailed interval history; a comprehensive examination; and medical decision-making that is of low to moderate complexity.

### Suture/Staple Removal

Two new CPT codes now represent suture/staple removal:

CPT 15853—Removal of sutures or staples not requiring anesthesia (List separately in addition to E/M code)

Common podiatric procedures which may include sutures/staples that have zero-day global periods include:

CPT 28820—Amputation, toe; metatarsophalangeal joint

CPT 28825—Amputation, toe; interphalangeal joint

and permanent archive of cine clips and static images to demonstrate the anatomy.”

### COVID-19 Vaccine

The new CPT code set includes many new codes representing different COVID-19 vaccinations, includ-

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**All providers who submit CPT codes should be fully versed in the CPT code set or be using outside experts who are.**

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CPT 28001—Incision and drainage, bursa, foot

CPT 28002—Incision and drainage below fascia, with or without tendon sheath involvement, foot; single bursal space

CPT 28003—Incision and drainage below fascia, with or without

ing different doses and boosters. It is recommended that providers who administer COVID-19 vaccinations reference the 2023 CPT code set to be sure they are using the correct code for the vaccine type and dose being administered. If no E&M is performed, and the only service provided at an encounter is administration of a vaccination, it is not appropriate to submit a CPT code that reflects the performance of an E&M service.

### Conclusion

These are just some of the changes pertinent to podiatrists that appear in the 2023 CPT code set. All providers who submit CPT codes should be fully versed in the CPT code set or be using outside experts who are. All providers should be using the new 2023 CPT code set for services provided on or after January 1, 2023. **PM**

### Reference

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**If no E&M is performed, and the only service provided at an encounter is administration of a vaccination, it is not appropriate to submit a CPT code that reflects the performance of an E&M service.**

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CPT 15854—Removal of sutures and staples not requiring anesthesia (List separately in addition to E/M code)

These CPT codes can be used if the patient is not in a global period for the provider who removes the sutures/staples. In order to submit these codes, a medically necessary E&M must be performed and documented as these two new codes can only be submitted as an add-on code to one of the following E&M services:

CPT 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99211, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285, 99341, 99342, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350. Because these are add-on codes, the E&M submitted for the same encounter does not need to be significantly and separately identifiable from the suture/staple removal.

tendon sheath involvement, foot; multiple areas

### New Ultrasound Code

CPT\* 76883—Ultrasound, nerve(s) and accompanying structures throughout their entire anatomic course in one extremity, comprehensive, including real-time cine imaging with image documentation, per extremity

Rather than just imaging one section of a nerve, or perhaps a single area of inflammation along a nerve, this CPT code is meant to represent imaging of the entire course of a nerve. CPT provides this clarification regarding appropriate use of this CPT code:

“Comprehensive evaluation of a nerve is defined as evaluation of the nerve throughout its course in an extremity. Documentation of the entire course of a nerve throughout an extremity includes the acquisition



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