Billing and Coding for Initial Diagnostic Evaluations for Caregiver Support Programs

Center to Advance Palliative Care™

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Diagnostic Evaluation: 90791

While there is no specific time requirement, visits are typically 60+ minutes due to the comprehensive nature of the evaluation

Includes:

- ➔ Thorough mental status examination
- ➔ Evaluation of patient's ability and capacity to respond to treatment
- ➔ Initial treatment plan

No medical services; no physical exam or prescribing, can be performed by a non-medical professional

Can be used once in a 12-month period (per Medicare rules, which most private insurers also follow)

Diagnostic Evaluation 90791: Documentation

- ➔ Chief complaint/presenting problem
- ➔ Past psychiatric history including substance use history, trauma history
- ➔ Family psychiatric history
- ➔ Social history
- ➔ Developmental history
- ➔ DSM diagnosis
- ➔ Treatment Plan

Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation with Medical Services: 90792

- ➔ Can only be used by a medical professional.
- ➔ If conducting a comprehensive evaluation, this is the preferred code (instead of 99204/5) because it has a higher reimbursement.
- ➔ Psychotherapy by a **separate** provider/NPI number can be billed same-day without a modifier.
- ➔ No required amount of time but typically ~60 minutes due to comprehensive nature of evaluation.
- ➔ Evaluation should include complete medical and psychiatric histories, medication review and management, a detailed mental status exam, any lab studies, and a clear treatment plan.

Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation with Medical Services 90792: Documentation

- ➔ Chief complaint
- ➔ History of present illness (HPI)
- ➔ Past psychiatric history including substance use history, trauma history
- ➔ Family psychiatric history
- ➔ Social history
- ➔ Developmental history
- ➔ Medication review
- ➔ Medical history (**which qualifies the encounter to be billed as 90792**)
- ➔ Risk/safety assessment
- ➔ Mental status exam
- ➔ Diagnosis, based on DSM-V criteria
- ➔ Treatment plan

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