
CHAPTER 5: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Same-Day Outpatient Visits**Recipients under Age 21**

Same-day outpatient visits may be considered for payment for recipients under age 21 when justified if:

- The physician needs to check on the progress of an unstable recipient treated earlier in the day,
- An emergency situation necessitates a second visit on the same day as the first, or
- Any other occasion arises in which a second visit within a 24-hour period is necessary to ensure the provision of medically necessary care to the recipient.

Two same-day outpatient visits per specialty per recipient are allowed; however, the second same-day outpatient visit is payable for only the lower level Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes. The recipient's medical record must be available for review and must substantiate the need for the second same-day visit. Louisiana Medicaid accepts nationally recognized modifiers to identify significant, separately identifiable services on the same date. Improper use of modifiers solely to maximize reimbursement will be subject to administrative sanction.

If an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) screening has been paid, only the lower level E/M codes are payable for the same recipient, on the same date of service and by the same attending provider. In these circumstances, when it is clinically appropriate, providers may use the correct modifier to allow both services to be paid. A same day follow up office visit for the purpose of fitting eyeglasses is allowed, but no higher level office visit than the lowest level E/M code is reimbursable for the fitting. Correct modifier usage may be required.

Exclusions

Same-day outpatient visit policy does not apply when:

- The diagnosis is simple,
- The condition requires non-complex care, or
- The recipient is a child in state-funded foster care (aid category 15).

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Recipients Age 21 and Over

If a preventive medicine E/M service has been paid, only lower level E/M is reimbursable for the same recipient, on the same date of service, and by the same attending provider. (See Preventive Medicine Evaluation and Management Services (Adults) and Modifiers for additional information)