



March 2, 2021

IMPROPER DOWNCODING OF E/M CLAIMS

A NYSPA member recently reached out to let us know that, starting January 1, 2021, two different insurance carriers have initiated automatic down-coding of evaluation and management (E/M) codes submitted along with a psychotherapy add-on code. Claims for 99214 and 99215 submitted as part of a combination psychotherapy claim have been unilaterally down-coded to 99213 and paid at the lower rate. In both cases, the carriers have not requested or reviewed any medical records and have simply down-coded the claims without any additional information or justification. This practice is improper and NYSPA plans to pursue this matter further on behalf of our members. If you or your patients have experienced automatic and unilateral down-coding of E/M codes as of January 1, 2021, we would like to know about it. Please contact NYSPA Central Office at centraloffice@nyspsych.org with pertinent details and/or claim remittances or EOBs (please redact any patient names or other identifying information).

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