

# COMPLIANCE *pulse*

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## WELCOME TO THE JANUARY EDITION OF THE VUMC COMPLIANCE PULSE!

Every other month, the Office of Compliance & Corporate Integrity (OCCI) uses this platform to update you on important compliance topics and announcements.

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### 2023 EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT VISITS: NEW DOCUMENTATION & CODING REQUIREMENTS

Appropriate documentation and accurate Evaluation and Management (E/M) code leveling is important for patient care, accurate billing, timely payment collection, and multiple other reasons. In 2021, the E/M coding guidelines changed for the first time since 1997. These changes included removing and adding codes as well as changing the core criteria by which an encounter is leveled to Medical Decision Making or Time. The changes *only* affected Office or Other Outpatient Services.

On January 1, 2023, these new guidelines were implemented across *all* health care settings, including hospitals, emergency departments, nursing facilities and patients' homes. Several codes and their descriptors have been revised, consolidated, or deleted. Changes cover E/M services such as hospital observation care, E/M consultations, and prolonged services. (See [AMA Summary of Revisions](#) for more details.)

Whether you are a billing practitioner, trainee (resident/fellow), medical student, nurse, tech, etc., your documentation matters. Our goals are to provide accurate, reliable medical record documentation to all users and to reduce unnecessary documentation that is added when we utilize some automated documentation tools.

January 2023

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## BE MINDFUL OF DOCUMENTATION YOU ADD TO THE MEDICAL RECORD

- Does it provide clinical value today?
- Will it provide clinical value to the next providers who are working with this patient?
- Is it clear, concise, and relevant to the care we are delivering?
- Are the documentation tools we are using making documentation easier to understand or more complicated?

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## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

The Office of Compliance & Corporate Integrity, VMG Coding, and several practitioners have helped to develop resources to help VUMC Practitioners to master E/M code leveling. These resources can be found on the [OCCI's E/M educational website](#).

We encourage all affected practitioners to familiarize themselves with the new regulations and to reach out to us at [codingdocumentation@vumc.org](mailto:codingdocumentation@vumc.org) or [compliance.office@vumc.org](mailto:compliance.office@vumc.org) if you have any questions.

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## Additional Resources

Visit the [OCCI website](#). Here, you will find helpful resources, including tip sheets, contact information, links to the VUMC Integrity Line, important policy information, and much more.