



MEDICAL MUTUAL®

In the News

Medical Mutual Now Covering Advanced Care Planning Services

Effective January 1, 2016, Medical Mutual covers Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)* codes 99497 and 99498. These codes are used to report a face-to-face conversation around advanced care (end of life) planning between a healthcare provider and a patient, family members, and/or surrogate, including an explanation and discussion of advanced directives and completion of relevant legal forms, if necessary.

Advanced Directive Examples

- Living Will, which defines in writing the medical treatments a patient would or would not allow.
- Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, which names an individual with legal authority to make medical decisions at a future time for an incapacitated person.
- DNR (Do Not Resuscitate), which specifies the extent of treatment a patient would want if his/her heart or breathing stops. A DNR order must be written by a healthcare provider.

Code Descriptions

- 99497: First 30 minutes, face-to-face with the patient, family members and/or surrogate
- 99498: Each additional 30 minutes (list separately in conjunction with 99497)

Billing 99497 and 99498

When appropriate, codes 99497 and 99498 may be billed in addition to certain office visit or inpatient hospital Evaluation and Management (E/M) services. These codes cannot be billed when active management of the problem(s) is undertaken during the reported time period. Codes 99497 and 99498 are not eligible for reimbursement if billed on the same date of service as the following critical care and intensive care codes:

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| • 99291 | • 99471 | • 99477 |
| • 99292 | • 99472 | • 99478 |
| • 99468 | • 99475 | • 99479 |
| • 99469 | • 99476 | • 99480 |

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None of the information included in this article is intended to be legal advice and, as such, it remains the provider's responsibility to ensure that all coding and documentation are done in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.