

UTMB COMPLIANCE STANDARD

UTMB OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE	10/01/2004	-Effective
Documentation, Billing, and Coding Policy	mm/dd/yy	-Revised

Billing for Initial Hospital Care

Purpose	To clarify the UTMB documentation requirements for billing the Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes for Initial Hospital Care (99221-99223).
Audience	Physicians, Non-Physician Providers, Department Administrators, Billing Managers, Billing and Coding Staff
Policy	<p>Initial Hospital Care requires that all three key components (history, physical examination, and medical decision making) are documented. If the documentation does not support all three key components (to meet even the lowest level Initial Hospital Care 99221), but two of the three key components are documented, the subsequent hospital care codes (99231-99233), may be used for billing. However, this should be discussed with the faculty physician and the documentation guidelines for these services should be reviewed so that the physician can document for the actual service provided</p>
Procedure	<p>The lowest level of Initial Hospital Care (99221) requires documentation of all three key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A detailed or comprehensive history;• A detailed or comprehensive examination; and• Medical decision making that is straightforward or of low complexity <p>However, the lowest level of Subsequent Hospital Care (99231) requires documentation of two of the three key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A problem interval history;• A problem focused examination;• Medical decision making that is straightforward or of low complexity <p>If all three key components are not met on the Initial Hospital Care (99221-99223) and two key components are documented such that the requirements for Subsequent Care are met, the appropriate Subsequent Care (99231-99233) code may be used for billing an initial hospital service.</p>

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References	Current Procedural Terminology, 2002 Physician Practice Coder, Vol. 5, No. 11, November 1999
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