



Connecticut State Medical Society - IPA, Inc.

Building Partnerships Between Business and Medicine

Corporate Office:
160 Saint Ronan Street
New Haven, CT 06511
Phone (203) 562-7228 • Fax (203) 624-6665

Operations Office:
4 Corporate Drive, Suite 185
Shelton, CT 06484
Phone (203) 225-1291 • Fax (203) 225-1295

CONSULTATION CODES 99241-99245

Office or Other Outpatient Consultations

As described by *Current Procedural Terminology CPT*[®], “A consultation is a type of service provided by a physician whose opinion or advice regarding evaluation and/or management of a specific problem is **requested** by another physician or other appropriate source. A physician consultant may initiate diagnostic and/or therapeutic services at the same or subsequent visit.”

“The written or verbal request for a consult may be made by a physician or other appropriate source and documented in the patient’s medical record. The consultant’s opinion and any services that were ordered or performed must also be documented (**recorded**) in the patient’s medical record and communicated by written **report** to the requesting physician or other appropriate source.”

Should a patient or family request the consultation, and the visit is not requested by another appropriate healthcare provider, this visit would **not** be reported using the consult codes 99241-99245. The appropriate way to bill for a visit like this is to use new patient codes (99201-99205) or established office visit codes (99211-99215) as appropriate.

After the consultation is complete, if the consultant assumes responsibility for any or all of the care of that patient, all subsequent visits would be billed with the established office visit codes 99211-99215.

In summary, the following **must** be met to code a visit as a consult:

1. The consultation is being performed at the **REQUEST** of another physician or appropriate source who needs advice regarding evaluation and/or management of a specific problem.
2. The reason the consultation was requested must be **RECORDED** in the patient’s medical record.
3. After the consultation is provided, the consultant must prepare a written **REPORT** of his or her findings, which is provided to the requesting physician or other source.