

BILLING FOR HOUSE CALLS

House calls are reimbursable visits with most payers, including Medicare. To be reimbursed by Medicare, you must document the reason a house call was necessary; for example, an office visit would require ambulance transport or excessive physical effort or cause pain, or the patient is homebound. (To understand Medicare's definition of homebound, see ["Defining 'Confined to the Home,'" FPM, March 2003, page 20.](#))

To bill for house calls, document the visits thoroughly and use the appropriate CPT code from the table shown below.

<i>House call CPT code</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Average time</i>
New patient		
99341	Problem-focused history and exam Straightforward medical decision making	20
99342	Expanded problem-focused history and exam Medical decision making of low complexity	30
99343	Detailed history and exam Medical decision making of moderate complexity	45
99344	Comprehensive history and exam Medical decision making of moderate complexity	60
99345	Comprehensive history and exam Medical decision making of high complexity	75
Established patient		
99347	Problem-focused interval history and exam Straightforward medical decision making	15
99348	Expanded problem-focused interval history and exam Medical decision making of low complexity	25
99349	Detailed interval history and exam Medical decision making of moderate complexity	40
99350	Comprehensive interval history and exam Medical decision making of moderate to high complexity	60