



#### **Private Property of Truli for Health**

This payment policy is Copyright 2023, Truli for Health. All Rights Reserved. You may not copy or use this document or disclose its contents without the express written permission of Truli for Health. The medical codes referenced in this document may be proprietary and owned by others. Truli for Health makes no claim of ownership of such codes. Our use of such codes in this document is for explanation and guidance and should not be construed as a license for their use by you. Before utilizing the codes, please be sure that to the extent required, you have secured any appropriate licenses for such use. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is Copyright 2023 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values, or related listings are included in CPT. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use. CPT® is a trademark of the American Medical Association.

**PAYMENT POLICY ID NUMBER: 16-047**

**Original Effective Date: 07/01/2020**

**Revised: 07/13/2023**

## **Initial Hospital Inpatient or Observation Evaluation & Management Services**

**THIS PAYMENT POLICY IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION, CERTIFICATION, EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS, OR A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT, NOR DOES IT SUBSTITUTE FOR OR CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE. ALL MEDICAL DECISIONS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN. BENEFITS ARE DETERMINED BY THE GROUP CONTRACT, MEMBER BENEFIT BOOKLET, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER CERTIFICATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME SERVICES WERE RENDERED. THIS PAYMENT POLICY APPLIES TO ALL LINES OF BUSINESS AND PROVIDER OF SERVICE. IT DOES NOT ADDRESS ALL POTENTIAL ISSUES RELATED TO PAYMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO TRULI FOR HEALTH MEMBERS AS LEGISLATIVE MANDATES, PROVIDER CONTRACT DOCUMENTS OR THE MEMBER'S BENEFIT COVERAGE MAY SUPERSEDE THIS POLICY.**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

According to Current Procedure terminology (CPT®) instructions, Initial Hospital Inpatient or Observation Care codes 99221, 99222 and 99223 are used to report the first hospital inpatient or observation encounter of a new or established patient. These codes are used per day. Effective for dates of service on or after January 01, 2023, these codes required a medically appropriate history and/or examination. In addition, the appropriate level of Evaluation and Management (E/M) services should be selected based on the level of the Medical Decision Making (MDM) as defined for each service, or the total time for the E/M service performed on the date of the encounter.

#### **REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:**

Truli for Health allows payment for initial hospital care service when the patient has not received any professional services from the physician or other qualified health care professional or another physician or other qualified health care professional of the same specialty who belongs to the same group practice during the stay. When advanced practice nurses and physician assistants are working with physicians, they are considered as working in the exact same specialty as the physician.

Providers who are the admitting physician may bill modifier AI (Principal Physician of Record) to note they are the admitting physician.

Inpatient or observation consultation codes 99252, 99253, 99254, 99255 are used to report physician or other qualified health care professional consultations provided to hospital inpatients, observation-level patients, residents of nursing facilities, or patients in a partial hospital setting,

Subsequent hospital inpatient or observation care codes 99231, 99232, 99233 should be reported for initial inpatient or observation services if the service is a consultation services and an encounter in another site of service was reported or a prior consultation was performed in anticipation of, or related to, an admission by another physician or other qualified health care professional,

**BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:**

**CPT® Codes:**

The following codes may be used to describe Initial Hospital Inpatient or Observation Care Services:

<b>99221</b>	Initial hospital inpatient or observation care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and straightforward or low level medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 40 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99222</b>	Initial hospital inpatient or observation care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 55 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99223</b>	Initial hospital inpatient or observation care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 75 minutes must be met or exceeded.

The following codes may be used to describe Initial Inpatient Consultation services:

<b>99252</b>	Inpatient or observation consultation for a new or established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and straightforward medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 35 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99253</b>	Inpatient or observation consultation for a new or established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and low level medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 45 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99254</b>	Inpatient or observation consultation for a new or established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 60 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99255</b>	Inpatient or observation consultation for a new or established patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 80 minutes must be met or exceeded.

The following codes may be used to describe Subsequent Hospital Inpatient or Observation Care Services:

<b>99231</b>	Subsequent hospital inpatient or observation care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and straightforward or low level medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 25 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99232</b>	Subsequent hospital inpatient or observation care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and moderate level of medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 35 minutes must be met or exceeded.
<b>99233</b>	Subsequent hospital inpatient or observation care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires a medically appropriate history and/or examination and high level of medical decision making. When using total time on the date of the encounter for code selection, 50 minutes must be met or exceeded.

**RELATED PAYMENT POLICIES:**

Consultation Services 17-055

**REFERENCES:**

1. American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Professional Edition
2. American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) E/M Companion 2023

**GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:**

07/15/2021	Annual Review – no changes
07/14/2022	Annual Review – no changes
01/01/2023	Revision – Policy revised to align with new reporting guidelines for E/M services and Initial Hospital or Observation Care CPT® codes.
07/13/2023	Annual Review – References reviewed and updated.

**Private Property of Truli for Health**

This payment policy is Copyright 2023 Truli for Health. All Rights Reserved. You may not copy or use this document or disclose its contents without the express written permission of Truli for Health. The medical codes referenced in this document may be proprietary and owned by others. Truli for Health makes no claim of ownership of such codes. Our use of such codes in this document is for explanation and guidance and should not be construed as a license for their use by you. Before utilizing the codes, please be sure that to the extent required, you have secured any appropriate licenses for such use. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is Copyright 2023 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values, or related listings are included in CPT. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use. CPT® is a trademark of the American Medical Association.

Health coverage is offered by Truli for Health, an affiliate of Florida Blue. These companies are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.