

# Quick Guide: Common Medical Billing Codes Explained

Medical billing codes can feel like a foreign language, but understanding them helps ensure your bills are accurate. Here's a quick reference to some common codes and what they represent.

## 1. CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) Codes

These are five-digit codes that describe medical procedures and services performed by healthcare providers.

- 99213: Office visit, established patient (medium complexity)
- 90791: Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation
- 93000: Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG), with report
- 80053: Comprehensive metabolic panel (blood test)

## 2. ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) Codes

These are used to identify diagnoses and reasons for medical visits.

- E11.9: Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications
- M54.5: Low back pain
- J01.90: Acute sinusitis, unspecified
- Z12.11: Encounter for screening for colon cancer

## 3. HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) Codes

These cover products, supplies, and services not included in CPT codes.

- A0428: Ambulance service, basic life support
- E0627: Seat lift mechanism for a patient-operated lift chair
- E0114: Crutches, underarm, adjustable or fixed
- G0463: Hospital outpatient clinic visit

#### 4. Common Modifiers

Modifiers are two-digit codes added to CPT or HCPCS codes to provide additional details about the service.

- -25: Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service on the same day as another procedure.
- -59: Distinct procedural service, indicating a procedure or service was separate from others performed on the same day.
- -RT: Procedure performed on the right side of the body.
- -LT: Procedure performed on the left side of the body.

#### Tips for Reviewing Medical Codes

1. Match Codes to Services: Compare the codes on your bill to the services you received.
2. Use Online Resources: Websites like the AMA's CPT Lookup or CMS's HCPCS database can help verify codes.
3. Look for Red Flags: Be wary of duplicate codes or services you didn't receive.

#### Need Help?

Understanding medical billing codes can be tricky, but you don't have to do it alone. At The Medical Billing Advocate, we're here to review your bills and explain what those codes mean. Contact us today for a free consultation-we'll help you ensure accuracy and save money!