

# BCBSAZ adopts 2021 E/M code revisions

 [pages.azblue.com/2021-revisions-to-EM-codes-for-office-visits---FEB-2021.html](https://pages.azblue.com/2021-revisions-to-EM-codes-for-office-visits---FEB-2021.html)

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In keeping with HIPAA requirements to use the most recent version of the medical data code set, Blue Cross<sup>®</sup> Blue Shield<sup>®</sup> of Arizona (BCBSAZ) has implemented the 2021 revisions to the CPT<sup>®</sup> evaluation and management (E/M) codes for office visits. These revisions help reduce the administrative burden of documentation and coding, and ensure E/M reimbursement is based on actual patient care and resources used for the visit.

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## What does this mean for you?

**Our implementation means that our claim system no longer recognizes code 99201 as a valid E/M code** (it was termed from the CPT code set by the AMA as of December 31, 2020). Claims submitted with code 99201 will be rejected. When we review requested medical records related to E/M services, we'll be using the new documentation and level of medical decision-making standards.

## Provider resources for the 2021 E/M code revisions

The AMA has extensive [online resources](#) available for providers to learn more about the E/M office visit revisions. Along with the background, objectives, and summary of the revision, you can access a comprehensive [educational module](#) and [implementation videos](#).

Please ensure that your billing team and clearinghouse are aware of the new coding guidelines. If you have questions, contact your [provider liaison](#) or call Provider Partnerships at 602-864-4231 or 1-800-232-2345, ext. 4231.

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