

Hospital Clinic Model

Clinic E/M Model 6/16/03 Draft

Definition of Clinic Visit

A patient who presents to the hospital clinic for services, is registered and receives one or more of the clinical interventions listed below.

Level 1 (Low Level) Interventions

At least one item below qualifies for low level. Additional explanations, examples and clarifications appear in italics. Items below as performed by hospital staff, rather than physician.

Bedside diagnostic testing, unless tests are separately billed.	<i>Examples: Dip stick urine testing, capillary blood sugar (Accucheck, Dextrostick), hemocult, occult blood tests. Strep test is out, separately billable.</i>
Blood pressure recheck	
Clinical staff assessment (excluding physician)	<i>Example: Vitals, or chief complaint, or clinical assessment of symptom.</i>
Flushing of Heplock	
Patient registration, room set up, patient use of room, room cleaning—not covered by a separately billable procedure.	
Routine simple discharge instructions	
Single specialized clinical measurement or assessment	<i>Example: fetal heart tones, positional blood pressure readings, Snellan exam, and cardiac monitor rhythm strip performed by nurse.</i>
Specimen collection(s), where nurse provides patient with instructions and patient self-collects, other than venipuncture, e.g. mid-stream urine samples.	<i>Example: nursing instruction of patient on proper specimen collection (e.g. mid-stream urine, sputum). Includes collection of specimen (not the performance of the lab test).</i>
Suture or staple removals	
Tuberculosis test check	
Wound care management (when not separately billable), not repaired – up to 25 sq. cm.	<i>Includes cleansing, assessment, measurement, photographing, ankle brachial index, and/or dressing of wound. Includes steri-strips and other adhesives, eye patch, butterflies. Note: For multiple wounds, add the total size of all wounds.</i>

Level 2 (Mid-Level) Interventions

At least one item below qualifies for mid-level. Additional explanations, examples and clarifications appear in italics. Items below as performed by hospital staff, rather than physician.

Administration of oral, topical, rectal, PR, NG or SL medication(s)	
Administration of single disposable enema	
Application of preformed splint(s)/elastic bandages/sling(s), or immobilizer for non-fracture or nondislocation injuries, when not separately billable as a procedure.	<i>Preformed are off-the shelf. If creating a splint from plaster or fiberglass or other material (custom-made splint), would have separate code. Splints are not billed separately. Splints, casting, etc. for fractures are separately billable and paid under the fracture management.</i>
Assist physician with examination	<i>Pelvic exam included here. Includes eye exam/slit lamp exam of eye. Nursing documentation must support assistance, unless there is a hospital protocol regarding assistance with exam.</i>
Blood draw(s) through specialized vascular access device	

Care of device(s) or catheter(s) (both indwelling and in & out) (vascular and nonvascular) and/or ostomy device(s)--other than insertion or reinsertion	<i>Examples: irrigation, inspection, assessment, flushing, adjustment, positioning, changing of bags, checking. Examples of catheters/devices: foley, ileal conduit, gastrostomy, ileostomy, colostomy, nephrostomy, tracheostomy, PEG tube, central lines, arterial lines, PICC lines.</i>
First aid procedures	<i>Examples: control bleeding, ice, monitor vital signs, cool body, remove stinger from insect bite, cleanse and remove secretions</i>

Foreign body(ies) removal of skin, subcutaneous or soft tissue without anesthesia or incision, when not a separately billable procedure.	
Frequent monitoring/assessment as evidenced by two sets of vital signs or assessments (including initial set), integral to current interventions and/or patient's condition.	<i>Example: Additional vital signs, assessment of cardiovascular, pulmonary or neurological status, assessment of pain scale, pulse oxymetry or peak flow measurement.</i>
Oxygen administration--initiation and/or adjustment from baseline oxygen regimen	<i>Includes conversion to hospital supplied oxygen with rate adjustments, as well as initiation of oxygen administration.</i>
Specimen collection(s) other than venipuncture, performed by nursing staff, e.g. cultures	<i>Collection of specimen (not the performance of the lab test), e.g. throat culture collection.</i>
Wound care management (when not separately billable), not repaired – 26-50 sq. cm.	<i>Includes cleansing, assessment, measurement, photographing, ankle brachial index, and/or dressing of wound. Includes steri-strips and other adhesives, eye patch, butterflies. Note: For multiple wounds, add the total size of all wounds.</i>

Contributory Factors For Clinic E/M Model From Low Level to Mid-Level OR From Mid-Level to High Level

Contributory factors are services, or other factors that when present may increase the E/M level from mid-level to high level. Only one factor is required. These factors apply only to the low level and the middle level. A high level E/M may not be increased to critical care by a contributory factor. Additional explanations, examples and clarifications appear in italics.

Airway insertion (nasal, oral)	
Altered mental status	
Arrangements and/or social service intervention (includes required reporting)	<i>Examples: Arrangements and/or social intervention for child abuse, battery, elder abuse, etc.</i>
Scheduling/coordination of ancillary services	
Arrival/transfer via paramedic/ambulance	
Assessments or care related to multiple catheters or devices	<i>Examples of catheters/devices: foley, gastrostomy, ileostomy, colostomy, tracheostomy, PEG tube, central lines, arterial lines, PICC lines.</i>
Face to face patient education requiring 30-59 minutes.	<i>Documentation will support the content of the education, time involved, and any factors that impacted on the time required. Examples include crutch training, diabetic teaching, counseling regarding diet, exercise, and other lifestyle changes.</i>
Isolation	
Patient acuity warrants simultaneous care by hospital staff (more than one-on-one)	
Patient discharge status other than home or discharge to facility other than originating facility (includes also admission to hospital inpatient or observation)	
Reporting to law enforcement or protective services (e.g., gunshots)	
Special needs requiring additional specialized facility resources (e.g. language/cognitive, communication impairment) - age appropriate	<i>Example: Patient doesn't understand English and requires use of an interpreter. However, if patient doesn't understand English, but nurse speaks the same language and is able to translate, then no additional specialized resources were required and would not qualify as a contributory factor.</i>

Level 3 (High Level) Interventions

At least one item below qualifies for high level. Additional explanations, examples and clarifications appear in italics. Items below as performed by hospital staff, rather than physician

Assessment, crisis intervention and supervision of imminent behavioral crisis threatening self or others	
Assistance with or performance of fecal disimpaction (manual disimpaction or multiple enemas)	
Continuous irrigation of eye using therapeutic lens (e.g. Morgan lens)	
Face to face patient education requiring more than 60 minutes.	<i>Documentation will support the content of the education, time involved, and any factors that impacted on the time required. Examples include crutch training, diabetic teaching, counseling regarding diet, exercise, and other lifestyle changes.</i>
Frequent monitoring/multiple assessments as evidenced by more than two sets of vital signs or assessments (including initial set), integral to current interventions and/or patient's condition.	<i>Example: Additional vital signs, assessment of cardiovascular, pulmonary or neurological status, assessment of pain scale, pulse oxymetry or peak flow measurement.</i>
Nasotracheal (NT) or orotracheal (OT) suctioning	
Wound care management (when not separately billable), not repaired – 51 sq. cm. or greater	<i>Includes cleansing, assessment, measurement, photographing, ankle brachial index, and/or dressing of wound. Includes steri-strips and other adhesives, eye patch, butterflies. Note: For multiple wounds, add the total size of all wounds.</i>