

Special Bulletin

For professional providers

November 20, 2024

CMS Clarifies “Substantive Portion” for Prolonged Preventive Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has clarified the definition of “[substantive portion](#)” for prolonged preventive services. When billing for these services for their Medicare Advantage patients, providers should follow the guidelines below:

- The “substantive portion” means more than half the provider’s total time.
- The CMS determines which provider performed the substantive portion based on total time.
- If more than one provider is involved in a split (or shared) visit, the provider who spent **more than half the total time** should bill for the primary Evaluation and Management visit and the prolonged service codes. **Note:** The appointment must meet all other split (or shared) services billing requirements.
- Both providers should add their time together, and whomever provided more than half the total time, including prolonged time (the substantive portion), should report both the primary service code and the prolonged services add-on codes.

For more on this update, visit the [CMS website](#).

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