

## Coding Brief: Reporting Instructions for Modifier 95

### CPT® Assistant.

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For the CPT 2025 code set, codes 98000-98016 were established to report telemedicine services (synchronous audio-video visit, synchronous audio-only visit, and brief communication technology-based service). Therefore, the telemedicine symbol (\*) was removed from codes 99202-99205 and 99212-99215. This article provides an overview of the intent and use of modifier 95, Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered Via a Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications System.

#### **Coding Tip**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule states that codes 99202-99205 and 99212-99215 may continue to be reported for telemedicine services with modifier 95 appended, which differs from the CPT 2025 code set's telemedicine guidelines. Therefore, CPT users should contact the specific third-party payer(s) for their reporting requirements for telemedicine services.

Modifier 95 may be appended to report synchronous (real-time) telemedicine services, which are typically provided face-to-face if they are performed using electronic communication with interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, both audio and video. The American Medical Association (AMA)/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale (RVS) Update Committee (RUC)/CPT Evaluation and Management (E/M) Workgroup's findings indicated that practice expense for clinical staff time is applicable to both audio-video and audio-only office visits but may differ from that of an in-person office or other outpatient visit. Therefore, codes 98000-98016 were established to accurately reflect the resources and reporting for these telemedicine



services. New guidelines were established to define these telemedicine services and to clarify the appropriate reporting of these new codes, which include instructions on how to report a telemedicine office visit that is performed on the same date as another E/M service. For this scenario, the elements and time of these services are added together to avoid duplicate reporting.

Appendix P lists those CPT codes whose services are typically rendered in person but may be used for reporting synchronous (real-time) interactive audio-video telemedicine services when appended with modifier 95. Because of the establishment of new telemedicine codes in the CPT 2025 code set, Appendix P was revised by deleting codes 99202-99205 and 99212-99215 because they will no longer be reported with modifier 95 for telemedicine visits according to the revised guidelines for telemedicine services. However, CMS and other third-party payers may continue to allow the practice of reporting telemedicine services using in-person office or other outpatient codes by appending modifier 95. Refer to Appendix P for a complete listing of codes whose services are typically rendered in person but may be used for reporting synchronous (real-time), interactive audio-video telemedicine services when appended with modifier 95. Note that the codes in Appendix P involve electronic communication using interactive telecommunications equipment that includes, at a minimum, both audio and video.