

Moderate / Conscious Sedation Services

For 2006, the American Medical Association (AMA) Editorial staff created new guidelines and six new codes to report moderate sedation services. The codes are divided into 2 families of codes and distinguished by the provision of sedation services by a physician who performs a procedure and a trained observer (99143-99145) or the provision of sedation services by a physician other than a health care provider who performs a procedure (99148-99150). Both families of codes are represented by age specific codes and are time-based with a single add-on code in each family to report additional time.

The six new codes, effective January 1, 2006, are:

- 99143 Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patients level of consciousness and physiological status; under 5 years of age, first 30 minutes intra-service time
- 99144 Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patients level of consciousness and physiological status; age 5 years or older, first 30 minutes intra-service time
- +99145 Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patients level of consciousness and physiological status; each additional 15 minutes intra-service time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)
- 99148 Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999), provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; under 5 years of age, first 30 minutes intra-service time
- 99149 Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999), provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; age 5 years or older, first 30 minutes intra-service time
- +99150 Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999), provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; each additional 15 minutes intra-service time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) 99141 *Sedation with or without analgesia (conscious sedation); intravenous, intramuscular or inhalation* and 99142 *Sedation with or without analgesia (conscious sedation); oral, rectal and/or intranasal* were deleted, effective December 31, 2005.

Moderate sedation services provided by the *same provider* performing a service is considered included in the primary service with the following exceptions:

- The sedation service is provided by a pediatrician or emergency room physician *and*
- The service is provided in an out-patient or emergency room setting

Moderate sedation services provided by *a physician other than the health care provider* performing a service is reportable in the following circumstances:

- The sedation service is provided by a physician *and*
- The sedation service is provided in a facility setting (e.g., hospital, outpatient hospital, emergency room, ambulatory surgery center or skilled nursing facility setting)

Moderate sedation guidelines include the following:

- Moderate sedation is a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond to verbal commands. No interventions are required to maintain an airway.
- Intraservice time starts with the administration of the sedation agent(s), requires continuous face-to-face attendance and ends at the conclusion of the personal contact by the physician providing the sedation.
- Moderate sedation services provided in a non facility setting are not reportable.
- Codes 99143-99145 should not be submitted in addition to the codes listed in Appendix G of CPT.