



## Child Passenger Safety Provider Billing Guidance Cheat Sheet

Content for this cheat sheet was developed in partnership with the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### **What injury prevention is inherent to a well child visit or problem focused visit?**

Insurance payers anticipate a certain amount of injury prevention counseling at each well child visit and will not pay for these routine services unless they 'go above and beyond'. The threshold for this is general established as spending ~15 minutes or more on the service. If you are seeing a child for a preventive or problem focused visit and spending less than 8 minutes reviewing child passenger safety, follow your usual procedures and bill under the new patient well visit (99381-99385), established patient well visit (99391-99395) or problem focused visit (99211-99215) code as anticipatory guidance.

### **What counts as going above and beyond?**

If you spend additional time, 15 min or more, providing focused child passenger safety education, demonstration, etc. then you are going above and beyond the expectation of a well child or problem focused visit and should additionally bill the Preventive Medicine, Individual Counseling services CPT codes 99401-99404 based on time, in addition to the well child, or your usual problem based E/M visit code.

**99401** – approximately 15 minutes – Average fee amount is \$30 – \$40

**99402** – approximately 30 minutes is \$60 - \$70

**99403** – approximately 45 minutes - Average fee amount is \$80 -- \$100

**99404** – approximately 60 minutes - Average fee amount is \$110 - \$130

### **Is documentation required?**

Yes. Be sure to document the key elements of the child passenger safety education provided in the patient's chart. For example, "an additional X minutes were spent counseling on child passenger safety regarding strap placement above and beyond the well child visit for a total of X minutes".

### **Will insurance pay?**

Maybe. In time-based codes the 50% rule applies so you must counsel for at least 8 minutes to code a 99401 (approximately 15 minutes). When covered by their plan, insurance reimbursement is typically on the order of \$30-40. Insurance payers may not reimburse you if the service is not covered by their plan. There are Relative Value Unites (RVUs) associated with this code that reflect the relative level of time, skill, training and intensive required to provide this additional child passenger safety.

### **What if I can't afford to 'go above and beyond' every time?**

If you can't fit at least 8 min of additional child passenger safety education into every well child visit due to competing topic demands, consider prioritizing time during the 9 month, 18 month, and 4 year well child visit as those are the start of critical transition periods for child passenger safety restraints when caregivers may best benefit from your assistance in making decisions that will reduce injury risk to their child.