

Moderate Sedation: CPT Codes Effective 1-1-17

Modified Time Rules & Expanded Definition of Intra-Service Time

New CPT Code Ranges:

- Intra-service time required to report initial services 99151-99152-99155-99156 = 15 minutes **Noting the first threshold for coding moderate sedation = 10 minutes
- Additional 15 minutes increments are reported with add on codes 99153-99157

Modified Time Rules: New moderate sedation codes lower the threshold for the required Intra-service Time from 16 minutes to a minimum of 10 minutes.

- A physician or qualified health care professional must perform **10 minutes** of moderate sedation to report this service.
- If less than 10 minutes there is no separate billable moderate sedation code and time would be considered part of the procedure.
- *Examples of how reported:*
- *10-22 minutes would be reported with initial service code 99152.*
- *23-37 minutes would be reported with the initial service 99152 and one unit of 99153*
- This is a departure from CPT guidelines for time based codes which states that a “unit of time is attained when the mid-point is passed.” For example, an hour is attained when 31 minutes have elapsed more than midway between zero and 60 minutes.

Expands Definition of Intra-Service Time:

- **Time Begins** with the administration of sedating agents and
- **Time Ends** when the physician or qualified health care professional finishes the procedure, the patient is ready to go to recovery and the provider who performs moderate sedation ends “personal continuous face to face time with the patient,” (When the physician leaves the room)
- **Work that counts as intra-service time includes:**
- Ordering and/or administering sedating agents as needed
- Requires continuous “Face to Face” attendance of physician or other qualified healthcare professional
- Requires monitoring patient response to sedating agents to include:
 - Periodic assessment of the patient;
 - Further administration of agent(s) as needed to maintain sedation; and
 - Monitoring of oxygen saturation, heart rate and BP
- Supervising and directing an independent, trained observer when the provider performs procedure and moderate sedation.

- **Intra-service time does not include any pre-service work** defined as Assessment of patient’s past medical/surgical history with emphasis on cardiovascular, pulmonary, airway or neurological conditions; Review of patient’s past experiences with anesthesia ;family history of sedation complications; summary of patient’s present medications; drug allergy and intolerance history; focused exam of patient with emphasis on mouth, jaw, oropharynx, neck and airway for Mallampari score assessment; chest and lungs; heart circulation; Vital signs; Review of any pre-sedation diagnostic tests; Completion of pre-sedation assessment form with ASA Physical Classification status; patient informed consent; immediate pre-sedation assessment prior to first sedating doses; and initiation of IV access and fluids to maintain patency.
- **Intra-Service time does not include any post-service work** defined as full patient assessment (vital signs, level of consciousness, Neurological, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary stability in the post sedation recovery period; Assessment for patient’s readiness for discharge to include preparing discharging documentation and communication with family/caregiver regarding sedation service.

Documentation Requirement options for physicians:

- Total Intra-Service time = _____ minutes (list personal continuous face to face time with your patient)
OR
- Intra-Service start time: _____ Intra-Service stop time: _____

CPT Descriptions and 2017 RVU values:

CPT	Description	Total RVUs 2019
99151	Moderate Sedation, same physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, < 5 years	0.72
99152	Moderate Sedation, same physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, 5 years or older	0.35
99153	Moderate Sedation, same physician performing the procedure, each additional 15 minutes	0.30
99155	Moderate Sedation, other physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, < 5 years	2.54
99156	Moderate Sedation, other physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, 5 years or older	2.24
99157	Moderate Sedation, other physician performing the procedure, each additional 15 minutes	1.82