

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



Official Information Health Care
Professionals Can Trust

Open a
Text-Only
Version

TRANSITIONAL CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES



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The Hyperlink Table, at the end of this document, provides the complete URL for each hyperlink.

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This publication provides the following information:

- ❖ Transitional Care Management (TCM) services
- ❖ Health care professionals who may furnish TCM services
- ❖ Supervision
- ❖ TCM services settings
- ❖ TCM components
- ❖ Billing TCM services
- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on billing TCM services
- ❖ Resources

TCM SERVICES

The requirements for TCM services include:

- ❖ The services are required during the beneficiary's transition to the community setting following particular kinds of discharges
- ❖ The health care professional accepts care of the beneficiary post-discharge from the facility setting without a gap
- ❖ The health care professional takes responsibility for the beneficiary's care
- ❖ The beneficiary has medical and/or psychosocial problems that require moderate or high complexity medical decision making

The 30-day TCM period begins on the date the beneficiary is discharged from the inpatient hospital setting and continues for the next 29 days.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO MAY FURNISH TCM SERVICES

The following health care professionals may furnish TCM services:

- ❖ Physicians (any specialty)
- ❖ The following non-physician practitioners (NPPs) who are legally authorized and qualified to provide the services in the State in which they are furnished:
 - Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs)
 - Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs)
 - Nurse practitioners (NPs)
 - Physician assistants (PAs)

When we use “you” in this publication, we are referring to these health care professionals.

CNMs, CNSs, NPs, and PAs may furnish non-face-to-face TCM services incident to the services of a physician and other CNMs, CNSs, NPs, and PAs.

SUPERVISION

The required face-to-face visit must be furnished under a minimum of direct supervision and is subject to applicable State law, scope of practice, and the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) “incident to” rules and regulations. The non-face-to-face services may be provided under general supervision. These services are also subject to applicable State law, scope of practice, and the PFS “incident to” rules and regulations. The practitioner must order services, maintain contact with auxiliary personnel, and retain professional responsibility for the service.

TCM SERVICES SETTINGS

TCM services are furnished following the beneficiary’s discharge from one of the following inpatient hospital settings:

- ❖ Inpatient Acute Care Hospital
- ❖ Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital
- ❖ Long Term Care Hospital
- ❖ Skilled Nursing Facility
- ❖ Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility
- ❖ Hospital outpatient observation or partial hospitalization
- ❖ Partial hospitalization at a Community Mental Health Center

Following discharge from one of the above settings, the beneficiary must be returned to his or her community setting, such as:

- ❖ His or her home
- ❖ His or her domiciliary
- ❖ A rest home
- ❖ Assisted living

TCM COMPONENTS

During the 30 days beginning on the date the beneficiary is discharged from a hospital inpatient setting, you must furnish the following three TCM components:

- ❖ An interactive contact
- ❖ Certain non-face-to-face services
- ❖ A face-to-face visit

Each component is discussed in more detail on pages 4–6.





AN INTERACTIVE CONTACT

You must make an interactive contact with the beneficiary and/or caregiver, as appropriate, within 2 business days following the beneficiary's discharge to the community setting. The contact may be via telephone, email, or face-to-face.

For Medicare purposes, attempts to communicate should continue after the first two attempts in the required 2 business days until they are successful. If you make two or more separate attempts in a timely manner and document them in the medical record but are unsuccessful, and if all other TCM criteria are met, you may report the service. We emphasize, however, that we expect attempts to communicate to continue until they are successful. You cannot bill TCM if the face-to-face visit is not furnished within the required timeframe (for more information, see the A Face-to-Face Visit Section on pages 5–6).

CERTAIN NON-FACE-TO-FACE SERVICES

You must furnish non-face-to-face services to the beneficiary, unless you determine that they are not medically indicated or needed. Licensed clinical staff under your direction may furnish certain non-face-to-face services.

Services Furnished by Physicians or NPPs

Physicians or NPPs may furnish the following non-face-to-face services:

- ❖ Obtain and review discharge information (for example, discharge summary or continuity of care documents)
- ❖ Review need for or follow-up on pending diagnostic tests and treatments
- ❖ Interact with other health care professionals who will assume or reassume care of the beneficiary's system-specific problems
- ❖ Provide education to the beneficiary, family, guardian, and/or caregiver
- ❖ Establish or re-establish referrals and arrange for needed community resources
- ❖ Assist in scheduling required follow-up with community providers and services

Services Furnished by Licensed Clinical Staff Under the Direction of a Physician or NPP

Licensed clinical staff under your direction may provide the following services, subject to the supervision, State law, and other rules discussed above:

- ❖ Communicate with agencies and community services the beneficiary uses
- ❖ Provide education to the beneficiary, family, guardian, and/or caretaker to support self-management, independent living, and activities of daily living
- ❖ Assess and support treatment regimen adherence and medication management
- ❖ Identify available community and health resources
- ❖ Assist the beneficiary and/or family in accessing needed care and services



A FACE-TO-FACE VISIT

You must furnish one face-to-face visit within certain timeframes as described by the following two Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes:

- ❖ CPT Code 99495 – Transitional care management services with moderate medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 14 days of discharge)
- ❖ CPT Code 99496 – Transitional care management services with high medical decision complexity (face-to-face visit within 7 days of discharge)

The face-to-face visit is part of the TCM service, and you should not report it separately.

Telehealth Services

Effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 2014, you may furnish CPT codes 99495 and 99496 through telehealth. Medicare pays for a limited number of Part B services furnished by a physician or practitioner to an eligible beneficiary via a telecommunications system. For eligible telehealth services, the use of a telecommunications system substitutes for an in-person encounter.

Medical Decision Making

Medical decision making refers to the complexity of establishing a diagnosis and/or selecting a management option, which is determined by considering the following factors:

- ❖ The number of possible diagnoses and/or the number of management options that must be considered
- ❖ The amount and/or complexity of medical records, diagnostic tests, and/or other information that must be obtained, reviewed, and analyzed
- ❖ The risk of significant complications, morbidity, and/or mortality as well as comorbidities associated with the patient's presenting problem(s), the diagnostic procedure(s), and/or the possible management options

The chart on page 6 depicts the elements for each level of medical decision making. Note that to qualify for a given type of medical decision making, two of the three elements must either be met or exceeded.

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Elements for Each Level of Medical Decision Making

Type of Decision Making	Number of Possible Diagnoses and/or Management Options	Amount and/or Complexity of Data to Be Reviewed	Risk of Significant Complications, Morbidity, and/or Mortality
Straightforward	Minimal	Minimal or None	Minimal
Low Complexity	Limited	Limited	Low
Moderate Complexity	Multiple	Moderate	Moderate
High Complexity	Extensive	Extensive	High

For more information about medical decision making, refer to the “[1995 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management Services](#)” or the “[1997 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management Services](#).”

Medication Reconciliation and Management

You must furnish medication reconciliation and management no later than the date you furnish the face-to-face visit.

BILLING TCM SERVICES

Below is information on billing TCM services:

- ❖ Only one health care professional may report TCM services.
- ❖ Report services once per beneficiary during the TCM period.
- ❖ The same health care professional may discharge the beneficiary from the hospital, report hospital or observation discharge services, and bill TCM services. However, the required face-to-face visit may not take place on the same day you report discharge day management services.
- ❖ Report reasonable and necessary evaluation and management (E/M) services (other than the required face-to-face visit) to manage the beneficiary’s clinical issues separately.
- ❖ You may not bill TCM services and services that are within a post-operative global period (TCM services cannot be paid if any of the 30-day TCM period falls within a global period for a procedure code billed by the same practitioner).
- ❖ When you report CPT codes 99495 and 99496 for Medicare payment, you may not also report the following codes during the TCM period:
 - Care plan oversight services: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes G0181 and G0182.
 - End-Stage Renal Disease services: CPT codes 90951–90970.
 - Chronic Care Management (CCM) services. For more information about billing TCM and CCM services, refer to “[Frequently Asked Questions about Billing the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Transitional Care Management Services](#).”

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- ❖ At a minimum, you must document the following information in the beneficiary’s medical record:
 - Date the beneficiary was discharged.
 - Date you made an interactive contact with the beneficiary and/or caregiver.
 - Date you furnished the face-to-face visit.
 - The complexity of medical decision making (moderate or high).

FAQS ON BILLING TCM SERVICES

For more information on billing the PFS for TCM services, refer to “[Frequently Asked Questions about Billing the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Transitional Care Management Services.](#)”

RESOURCES

The table below provides TCM resource information.

TCM Resources

For More Information About...	Resource
TCM Services	Calendar Year 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule
Telehealth Services	https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-information/telehealth “ Telehealth Services ”
E/M Services	“ Evaluation and Management Services ”
All Available Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Products	“ MLN Catalog ”
Provider-Specific Medicare Information	“ MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources ”
Medicare Information for Beneficiaries	https://www.medicare.gov

Hyperlink Table

Embedded Hyperlink	Complete URL
“ 1995 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management Services ”	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/95Docguidelines.pdf
“ 1997 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management Services ”	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/97Docguidelines.pdf

Hyperlink Table (cont.)

Embedded Hyperlink	Complete URL
“Frequently Asked Questions about Billing the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Transitional Care Management Services”	https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/Downloads/FAQ-TCMS.pdf
Calendar Year 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-16/pdf/2015-28005.pdf
“Telehealth Services”	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/TelehealthSrvcsfctsht.pdf
“Evaluation and Management Services”	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243514.html
MLN Catalog	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf
MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf



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