



Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI) 2021 Coding Guide

Counseling for Sexual Transmitted Infections



RECOMMENDATION CODING

Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI) Counseling for Sexual Transmitted Infections

Clinical Recommendations: The Women's Preventive Services Initiative recommends directed behavioral counseling by a health care provider or other appropriately trained individual for sexually active adolescent and adult women at an increased risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The Women's Preventive Services Initiative recommends that health care providers use a woman's sexual history and risk factors to help identify those at an increased risk of STIs. Risk factors may include age younger than 25, a recent history of an STI, a new sex partner, multiple partners, a partner with concurrent partners, a partner with an STI, and a lack of or inconsistent condom use. For adolescents and women not identified as high risk, counseling to reduce the risk of STIs should be considered, as determined by clinical judgement.

Implementation Considerations: The Women's Preventive Services Initiative recommends as preventive service for women at increased risk for STIs, directed behavioral counseling that includes, but is not limited to, longer duration or multiple counseling sessions, motivational interviewing techniques, and goal setting.

The Women's Preventive Services Initiative recommends as a preventive service, STI counseling regardless of whether or not STI screening takes place during the same visit and regardless of the type of sexual activity or the partners' gender.

NON-MEDICARE PAYERS

COUNSELING RISK FACTOR REDUCTION AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE INTERVENTION (99401-99412)

Preventive medicine counseling codes are used to report services for promoting health and preventing illness and injury. That is, the patient has no current symptoms or diagnosed illness.

The counseling must be provided at a separate encounter from the preventive medicine service. These codes are selected according to the time spent counseling the patient. If a distinct problem-oriented E/M service also is provided, it may be reported separately.

These codes are not reported when the physician counsels an individual patient with symptoms or an established illness. In this case, a problem-oriented E/M service (99202-99215) is reported.

Behavioral change interventions as reported with codes **99401–99412**, are for persons who have a behavior that often is considered an illness itself, such as tobacco use or substance abuse. Any additional E/M service reported on the same day must be distinct and documented distinctly. Time spent providing the behavioral change intervention services may not be used as a basis for the E/M code selection.

- 99401** Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 15 minutes
- 99402** Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 30 minutes
- 99403** Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 45 minutes
- 99404** Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 60 minutes
- 99411** Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting (separate procedure); approximately 30 minutes
- 99412** Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting (separate procedure); approximately 60 minutes

For counseling groups of patients with symptoms or established illness, see code **99078, Physician or other qualified health care professional qualified by education, training, licensure/regulation (when applicable) educational services rendered to patients in a group setting (eg, prenatal, obesity, or diabetic instructions)**

Possible ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes:

Z11.3, Z11.59, Z34.00, Z34.01, Z34.02, Z34.03, Z34.80, Z34.81, Z34.82, Z34.83, Z34.90, Z34.91, Z34.92, Z34.93, Z72.51, Z72.52, Z72.53, Z72.89, O09.90, O09.91, O09.92, and O09.93