

Type of Visit	What to Document	Comments	Example
E/M Service Based on Time in Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document total face-to-face time. • Note that over half of the time was spent in discussion. • Briefly describe discussion. 	Pre- and post- time reviewing records; talking to other health care professionals may not be included.	"I spent 30 minutes face-to-face with the patient, over half of which was discussing issues outlined above."
E/M Service Based on Time Inpatient Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document total unit time. • Note that over half of the unit time was face-to-face with the patient in discussion or coordinating care on the unit. • Briefly describe discussion. 	Over half of total time must be face-to-face with patient to use time for inpatient services.	"I spent 30 minutes on the unit, over half of which was in face-to-face discussion and coordination of care on the unit."
E/M and Prolonged Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document start and stop times. • Note that the additional, prolonged services were face-to-face with the patient. 	Medicare requires stop and start, not CPT.	"Visit started at 8:45, ended at 10:20. Prolonged time was face-to-face with patient."
Critical Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document total time (exclusive of procedures). • Time spent updating family is not included in critical care time. • Include time on unit caring for patient: at bedside, writing notes, reviewing data, discussion with other healthcare professionals. 	Updating family is not counted in critical care time. May include time spent with family member if need to obtain history and patient cannot provide, or if family is decision maker.	"I spent 45 minutes caring for this critically ill patient, exclusive of procedures and updating family members."