



**AMA Clarifications
December 10, 2020**

We attended the recent AMA 2021 CPT Symposium and the new E/M guidelines were discussed on November 20, 2020. The following points are a result of that meeting.

We expect more specific details to be clarified and will post them here.

1. Data element:
 - a. If you (or your same specialty partner in your practice) bill for the test, then no Category I (tests and documents) credit is given for ordering or reviewing the results of that unique test.
 - b. If you (or your same specialty partner in your practice) do not bill for the test, then Category I (tests and documents) credit for ordering a test is given. However, reviewing the results with the patient is inherent in the test order regardless of when the results are provided to the patient (e.g., same visit, separate visit). So Category I credit for review of the report is not given.

The AMA specifically stated the intent was not to stimulate people to order tests they were going to be paid for.

2. Risk element: the definition of a “minor” vs “major” procedure is not linked to Medicare’s post-operative global period concept. Rather, consideration is given to the inherent risk(s) of the procedure itself. We recommend the surgeon document the risks associated with the procedure, where the procedure will be performed (e.g., office, hospital), and under what type of anesthesia (e.g., local, general).