

2017 Moderate Sedation New CPT Codes, 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
 **Note the first threshold for coding initial moderate sedation = 10 minutes intra-service time.
- Additional 15 minutes increments are reported with add on codes 99153 & 99157

Modified Time Rules: New moderate sedation codes lower the threshold for initial Intra-service time from 16 minutes to a minimum of 10 minutes. (See CPT defined time table below)

- 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 16 minutes have elapsed more than midway between zero and 30 minutes.
- A physician or qualified health care professional must perform **10 minutes** of intra-service time to report the initial moderate sedation code.
- 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. (One 15 minute unit, plus 8 minutes & would not have enough to code for additional 15 minute)

23-37 minutes would be reported with the initial service 99152 and one unit of 99153. (Two 15 minute units, plus 7 minutes would not have enough to add another additional unit of 15 minutes.)

CPT Moderate Sedation Time Table

Total Intra-service Time	Patient age	CPT Code(s)=Same physician performing procedure	CPT Code(s)=Different physician who is performing procedure
Less than 10 minutes	Any Age	Not reported separately	Not reported separately
10-22 minutes	< 5 years	99151	99155
10-22 minutes	5 years or older	99152	99156
23-37 minutes	< 5 years	99151 + 99153 x1	99155 + 99157 x1
23-37 minutes	5 years or older	99152 + 99153 x1	99156 + 99157 x1
38-52 minutes	< 5 years	99151 + 99153 x2	99155 + 99157 x2
38-52 minutes	5 years or older	99152 + 99153 x2	99156 + 99157 x2
53-67 minutes	< 5 years	99151 + 99153 x3	99155 + 99157 x3
53-67 minutes	5 years or older	99152 + 99153 x3	99156 + 99157 x3
68-82 minutes	< 5 years	99151 + 99153 x4	99155 + 99157 x4
68-82 minutes	5 years or older	99152 + 99153 x4	99156 + 99157 x4

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:**
 1. Ordering and/or administering sedating agents as needed
 2. Requires continuous “Face to Face” attendance of physician or other qualified healthcare professional
 3. 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
 4. 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 (document 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 Code	Description	Total RVU’s
99151	Moderate Sedation, same physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, < 5 years; Total Intra-Service Time 10-22 minutes	0.67
99152	Moderate Sedation, same physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, 5 years or older; Total Intra-Service Time 10-22 minutes	0.35
99153	Moderate Sedation, same physician performing the procedure, each additional 15 minutes;	0.31
99155	Moderate Sedation, other physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, < 5 years; Total Intra-Service Time 10-22 minutes	2.63
99156	Moderate Sedation, other physician performing the procedure, initial 15 minutes, 5 years or older; Total Intra-Service Time 10-22 minutes	2.15
99157	Moderate Sedation, other physician performing the procedure, each additional 15 minutes	1.63