

House Calls

Quick Reference Guide

This short guide will help you understand what the requirements for house calls are, what codes to bill and how to bill them

Challenge

DoctorCare Best Practices and Recommendations

I need to do a house call to a patient's home who is frail, elderly or housebound...What can I bill?

- You can bill the A900 (complex house call assessment) at a payout of \$45.15
 - Payable when services are rendered in a patient's home, assisted living or retirement residence
 - Not payable if the patient is in a long-term care home
- Must ensure house calls are adequately documented in the EMR
 - Be able to demonstrate that an intermediate assessment was provided; and
 - Be able to demonstrate that the patient was a frail elderly or housebound patient

Who would be eligible for a complex house call?

- An elderly, frail patient is someone who is over 65 years of age and has one or more of the following:
 - Complex medical management needs, that may include multi-medication intake;
 - Cognitive impairment (e.g. dementia or delirium)
 - Age-related reduced mobility or falls; or
 - Unexplained functional decline
- A housebound patient is someone who has all of the following:
 - Difficulty accessing office-based care due to medical, physical, cognitive or psychosocial needs/conditions;
 - Alternative methods of transportation were considered but not feasible
 - The person's care and support requirements can be delivered at home

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What are travel premiums and first person seen premiums? Can I bill them with a complex house call?

- A travel premium is eligible for payment for travel from one location to another
- A first person seen premium is eligible for the first person seen at the destination
- You can bill both a travel premium and a first person seen premium in addition to the A900 or K023 (palliative care support)
- A007 (intermediate assessment) or A001 (minor assessment) cannot be billed in conjunction with the travel premium codes
- The time of visit for travel premiums must be recorded in the EMR
- For travel premium and first person seen premium codes, please refer to the tables on the last page

What if I have to do a pronouncement of death in the home?

- You may bill an A902, which has a payout of \$45.15
- You must submit the claim using the diagnostic code for the underlying cause of death as recorded on the death certificate
- You can bill a travel and first person seen premium alongside an A902

What do I do if the housecall patient is neither frail, elderly nor housebound?

- You may instead bill using the most appropriate assessment fee code, aside from the A007 (intermediate assessment) and A001 (minor assessment) codes, with the travel premiums (see *Special Visit to Patient's Home* table on pg. 4)

What about palliative care home visits?

- You may bill a K023 (palliative care support, worth \$62.75) along with the travel or first person seen premiums (see *Palliative Care Home Visit* table on pg. 4), however these visits must be at least 20 minutes long
 - If the the visit is less than 20 minutes long, then bill the A900 instead
- You can additionally bill the G512 (palliative care case management) at a payout of \$62.75 if you are providing ongoing palliative care to a patient

QUESTIONS?

Call our special Billing Hotline at 1-844-224-6244 or email support@doctorcare.ca

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In summary

- Bill an A900 (complex house call assessment) with the appropriate B9XX code (travel premium and first person seen premium if applicable) for frail, elderly and/or housebound patients
- For patients that are neither frail, elderly nor housebound, bill the most appropriate assessment code
- Bill a K023 (palliative care support), and possibly the G512 (palliative care case management) with the appropriate B9XX code if applicable for palliative visits that are at least 20 minutes long
- Bill A902 for the pronouncement of death in a home with the appropriate diagnostic code that is associated with the cause of death
- Ensure satisfactory documentation of time of visit and/or type of visit in the EMR

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Reference Tables

Special Visits to Patient's Home (other than Long-Term Care Institution)						
	Weekdays Daytime (07:00- 17:00) Non- elective	Weekdays Daytime (07:00- 17:00) with Sacrifice of Office Hours Non- elective	Evenings (17:00- 24:00) Monday through Friday Non- elective	Sat., Sun. and Holidays (07:00- 24:00) Non-elective	Nights (00:00- 07:00) Non- elective	Elective home visit
Travel Premium	\$36.40 B960	\$36.40 B961	\$36.40 B962	\$36.40 B963	\$36.40 B964	\$36.40 B960
First person seen	\$27.50 B990	\$44.00 B992	\$66.00 B994	\$82.50 B993	\$110.00 B996	\$27.50 B990
Maximums (per time period)						
Travel premiums	2	2	2	6	unlimited	2
First person seen	10	10	10	20	unlimited	10

Palliative Care Home Visit					
	Weekdays Daytime (07:00- 17:00)	Weekdays Daytime (07:00- 17:00) with Sacrifice of Office Hours	Evenings (17:00- 24:00) Monday through Friday	Sat., Sun. and Holidays (07:00- 24:00)	Nights (00:00- 07:00)
Travel Premium	\$36.40 B966	\$36.40 B966	\$36.40 B966	\$36.40 B966	\$36.40 B966
First person seen	\$82.50 B998	\$82.50 B998	\$82.50 B998	\$82.50 B998	\$110.00 B997
Maximums (per time period)					
Travel premiums	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
First person seen	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited

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