American Academy of Pediatrics



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January 1, 2012

Dear Medical Director:

I am writing to clarify the reporting of CPT code 99211 (office or outpatient visit, for the evaluation and management of an established patient, that may not require the presence of a physician) when it is used in conjunction with CPT code 86580 (TB intradermal test). Namely, that if a patient presents for interpretation of the results of a PPD (purified protein derivative of tuberculin) test, it is appropriate to report CPT code 99211.

CPT code 86580 is reported for the Mantoux test using the intradermal administration of purified protein derivative (PPD). Except in unusual circumstances, a nurse will typically read the PPD test. The nurse's work includes pulling the chart, checking when the PPD was administered, and looking at the skin. Interpretation of this test depends on the patient's history and risk classification. CPT code 99211 would be the appropriate code to report the reading.

Concerning CPT code 86580, neither the code descriptor, nor the Medicare RBRVS RVUs for the code take into account the reading of the PPD. Therefore, if reading the tuberculin test is the primary purpose of the office visit, it would be appropriate to report code 99211 (*CPT Assistant*, July 2006, pg 19).

Should you have any questions please contact Lou Terranova, Senior Health Policy Analyst at 800/433-9016 ext 7633 or <u>lterranova@aap.org</u>.

Sincerely,

## Margie Andreae, MD, FAAP

Margie Andreae, MD, FAAP Chair, Committee on Coding and Nomenclature

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