

## Billing for Sunday and Out-of-Office Visits

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Q: I have a patient who had a headache and neck pain over the weekend. He called my after-hours line and was subsequently seen on a Sunday. Is there any way of billing for treating a patient for an emergency Sunday visit?

A: There is a CPT code used to code a visit that occurs on a Sunday, when a Sunday is a day the office is normally closed. The code is 99050. It was revised in 2006, and is specifically defined as "services provided in the office at times other than regularly scheduled office hours, or days when the office is normally closed (e.g., holidays, Saturday or Sunday), in addition to the basic service."

Therefore, for this visit you would code for the specific services done, such as examination, acupuncture and any therapy, and additionally bill 99050 for the Sunday service. Note that most often, an "acupuncture emergency" visit is not one of a true emergency as defined in *CPT*, but a treatment wherein a patient is seen outside of regular hours. In this sense, to the treating acupuncturist, it is of course an "emergency." Technically, however, it is simply treatment outside of normal business hours or days, and would be coded as above.

Q: How do I bill for a patient visit I performed at the patient's home?

A: To code for services done at a patient's home, the code is 99056. This code specifically is for "service(s) typically provided in the office, provided out of the office at request of the patient, in addition to the basic service."

Thus, for treating someone at his or her home, you would use the code 99056. The use of this code would be in addition to the specific services done, such as examination and treatment. Additionally, on the CMS 1500 billing form, in block 24B ("place of service") you would indicate "12," which is the indicator for the patient's home.

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