



Time Based CPT Codes

As a reminder, when a CPT code is defined by time, the provider must document time in the patient's medical record. Examples of this include some psychiatry codes, certain physical therapy modalities, critical care, the second level discharge visit and any prolonged services. When you look at the definition of a CPT code, and time is listed, the **time must be documented in the medical record**. Failure to do so may cause audit issues, as the code billed may not be able to be substantiated by medical record documentation.

Mercy Care periodically conducts audits on time based CPT codes billed. Make sure accurate medical records are kept in order to substantiate the services you are billing and to avoid questions regarding the services that were provided.