

Critical Care Time Chart

This document provides a reference chart for healthcare professionals to accurately document and reference the appropriate CPT codes based on the total duration of critical care provided to a patient. Proper documentation is crucial for accurate billing and reimbursement.

Total duration of critical care and appropriate CPT codes

Total duration of critical care	Appropriate CPT codes
Less than 30 minutes	99232 or 99233 or other appropriate E/M code
30 - 74 minutes	99291
75 - 104 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 1
105 - 134 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 2
135 - 164 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 3
165 - 194 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 4
195 - 224 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 5
225 - 254 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 6
255 - 284 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 7
285 - 314 minutes	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 8
315 minutes or longer	99291 x 1 and 99292 x 9+

Important notes

- **CPT Code 99291:** Used for the first 30-74 minutes of critical care on a given calendar date.
- **CPT Code 99292:** Used for each additional 30 minutes of critical care beyond the initial 74 minutes.
- Critical care time can be continuous or aggregated over a single date.

Reference

American College of Emergency Physicians. (2024). *Critical care FAQ*. Retrieved from <https://www.acep.org/administration/reimbursement/reimbursement-faqs/critical-care-faq>