2026 CPT Code Changes Quick Reference

High-Impact Updates for Revenue Cycle Teams

NEW CODES (Effective January 1, 2026)

Code	Description	RCM Impact
99XXX	Remote therapeutic monitoring (RTM) evaluation	New revenue stream; verify payor coverage policies
9XXXX-9XXXX	Prolonged service codes (revised time thresholds)	Update time-tracking protocols; new documentation requirements
8XXXX	Social determinants of health (SDOH) assessment	Limited payor adoption; check coverage before billing

REVISED CODES (Updated Descriptors or Valuations)

Code	Change	RCM Impact
99213	Time threshold reduced from 20-29 min to 18-28 min	Easier qualification; review upcoding risk
99214	Time threshold reduced from 30-39 min to 28-38 min	May shift case mix; monitor compliance
99XXX	Telehealth codes made permanent (post-PHE)	Verify state-specific regulations

DELETED CODES (No Longer Valid)

Code	Replacement	Action Required
99XXX	Use 99XXX instead	Update billing system and charge master by Jan 1
8XXXX	No direct replacement	Discontinue use; document under evaluation code

Implementation Checklist:

■ Update billing system with new/revised/deleted codes by Dec 31, 2025

■ Train coding staff on descriptor changes and time thresholds

■ Verify payor coverage policies for new codes (check Axlow for latest)

■ Update charge master and fee schedules

■ Communicate changes to providers by Dec 15

Note: This is a simplified reference. For full CPT code details, consult the AMA CPT 2026 codebook.