



Honoring Choices[®] FLORIDA

Honoring Choices[®] Florida, an advance care planning program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, encourages everyone, especially those with a diagnosis of a chronic or life-limiting illness, to have a conversation and document their wishes for future health needs.

A CMS Benefit for Patient Choice and Quality of Life

Recognizing the value of advance care planning (ACP) discussions, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) authorizes reimbursement for explanation and discussion of advance care planning by physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and nurse midwives. In this context, ACP means the face-to-face discussion between the provider and the patient, helping the patient, family and decision makers understand medical options and plan for future health care. There is not a requirement that the conversation result in a written plan.

ACP conversation components include:

- Education about illness
- Identification of types of available treatments
- Decisions about care the patient would want if faced with a serious or life-limiting illness
- Identification of a medical decision maker in the event the patient loses capacity
- Importance of sharing wishes with family and other members of the care team

What are the reimbursement rates?

While fiscal intermediaries may make slight adjustments to these rates regionally, the current reimbursement rates are as follows:

CPT Code	Facility Payment	Non-Facility Payment
99497 (First 30 mins)	\$79.54	\$85.99
99498 (Each additional 30 mins)	\$74.52	\$74.88

How should these CPT codes be used?

These codes may be used in both facility and non-facility settings and are not limited to a particular physician specialty. Also, ACP services may be furnished “incident to” the services of the billing practitioner, and must include a minimum of direct supervision by the billing practitioner.

99498 cannot be used as a stand-alone code; 99497 must have been billed previously. There is currently no limit for the number of times 99498 may be used.

ACP services are subject to the normal 20% cost-sharing requirements unless furnished in conjunction with the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV), billed on the same day and on the same claim. If ACP services are provided at the time of the AWV, the new CPT codes should be used with modifier -33 so no Part B coinsurance or deductible will be charged.



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What are the requirements for reimbursement?

Providers Approved to Bill: Physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and nurse midwives

Time: CMS follows CPT time rules for ACP; the provider must spend more than half of the time defined by the code face-to-face with the patient. That means at least 16 minutes of the 30 minutes indicated in each code descriptor (99497 & 99498).¹

Documentation: To support a claim in the event of a denial, the provider's documentation should indicate the ACP conversation was separate from the AWV and include time spent on ACP.

Example: "In addition to the time spent conducting the AWV, I spent 20 minutes (from 3:25pm to 3:45pm) providing ACP services to patient, including discussion of ...".¹

What resources are available to share with you and your patients and families?

We know time is a limited resource in a clinical setting. Honoring Choices Florida[®], a program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, offers tools to help guide you through advance care planning discussions with your patients. Our professionals can provide training to your clinical staff to become certified Honoring Choices Florida facilitators. This training will provide them with the education necessary to guide patients through the planning process and to document their health care wishes.

Honoring Choices Florida is a proven model for advance care planning with a comprehensive framework for the ongoing planning beyond the initial conversation. Our website, **HonoringChoicesFL.com**, offers patient education materials, conversation guides, and other resources to implement a successful advance care planning program. Contact us through the website or call 904.407.7024 with questions about facilitator training or to obtain the Honoring Choices Florida ACP document and patient and family educational material.

Coding Resources for Physician Offices

1. Garner-Huey, Kim. *Advance Care Planning 2016: The ABC's of Getting Paid*. Naples: Coding Leader, 2016. Print
2. CMS.gov. MLN Matters[®] Number: MM9271. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9271.pdf>

To learn more about training for you or your staff, contact Jamie Buller, Community Hospice director of advance care planning, at **904.407.6398** or jbuller@communityhospice.com.