

## New vs. Established Patient Scenarios

**Scenario 1:** Dr. Green, a cardiologist in a multi-specialty practice, sees Ms. Smith for the first time on Dec. 1, 2007. He bills a new patient visit. On Dec. 12, 2007, he read the results of her EKG and doesn't find any abnormal results. Dr. Green does not render any additional face-to-face services to Ms. Smith until she comes in for a visit on Dec. 5, 2011. Dr. Green again would bill a new patient visit because more than three years have passed between face-to-face services.

**Scenario 2:** On Jan. 6, 2008, Dr. Brown, an OB/Gyn in Dr. Green's practice, sees Ms. Smith for the first time. Dr. Brown should bill a new patient visit because the doctors are different specialties.

**Scenario 3:** Dr. Green leaves his practice on Feb. 1, 2012, and joins a cardiology practice in the same city. Ms. Smith decides to follow him to the new practice and makes an appointment to see him on March 1, 2012. However, Dr. Green can't make it to the office that day, and Ms. Smith is instead seen by Dr. Rose. Dr. Rose bills an established patient visit because he works in the same practice and is of the same specialty as Dr. Green and less than three years have passed since the last time Dr. Green saw Ms. Smith.

**Scenario 4:** Dr. York, a family physician, and Dr. James, a sports medicine physician, both belong to the same practice. Dr. York sees a new patient with calf pain on August 3, 2011. He refers the patient to Dr. James to evaluate on August 12, 2011. Dr. James would bill a new patient visit. The reason: Dr. York and Dr. James are different specialties.

**Scenario 5:** Dr. White leaves his practice on May 1, 2008, and joins a new single specialty practice in the same city. On June 1, 2008, he treats Mr. Jones at the new practice. Dr. White would bill an established patient code because less than three years have passed since he last treated Mr. Jones.