



G0545 Myth Buster: Infectious Disease (ID) Add-On Code

G0545 is a Medicare-only add-on code used in addition to inpatient or observation E/M services to reflect infectious disease-specific complexity. It is designed to capture the extra cognitive and clinical work performed by ID-trained providers during hospital care.

Myth 1: “G0545 can be used in outpatient or clinic settings.”

☒ False!

☒ **Fact:** G0545 is only valid for inpatient or observation care. It cannot be billed for outpatient, clinic, or telehealth encounters.

Myth 2: “Any physician seeing an infectious disease patient can bill G0545.”

☒ False!

☒ **Fact:** Only providers with specialized ID training (e.g., ID physicians) can routinely bill G0545. Other specialists may bill it only if they are managing documented ID-specific complexity.

Myth 3: “G0545 doesn’t require extra documentation.”

- ✓ **Fact:** While it does not require extra documentation, G0545 requires clear, detailed documentation showing the infectious disease-related complexity. Include specifics like:
- Antimicrobial resistance management
 - Public health coordination
 - Complex diagnostics or therapeutic plans
 - Multidrug-resistant organisms.

Myth 4: “You can use G0545 with any payer.”

✗ **False!**

- ✓ **Fact:** G0545 is currently reimbursed by Medicare only. It may also be reimbursed by commercial payors; this should be confirmed by the provider with the commercial payor.

Myth 5: “G0545 requires a modifier.”

✗ **False!**

- ✓ **Fact:** No modifier is needed. Just append G0545 to the appropriate base E/M code (e.g., 99221–99223, 99231–99236, 99238–99239).



Think
**complexity +
ID expertise.**

Examples:

- Sepsis with multidrug resistance
- TB evaluation involving public health
 - Fungal infection with complex diagnostics
 - Complex antimicrobial therapy for hospital-acquired pneumonia.



Audit Tip

CMS may audit G0545 usage. Ensure each date of service includes:

- Clear ID-specific work
- Rationale for added complexity
- Distinct documentation per day

