New PT & OT CPT Codes

Effective Date: 1/1/2017

Physical Therapy (PT) Codes

- Old Code: 97001 – Physical therapy evaluation – Deleted 12/31/2017
- New Codes (available 1/1/2017):
  - 97161 - Physical therapy: low complexity
  - 97162 - Physical therapy: moderate complexity
  - 97163 - Physical therapy: high complexity

The HT, TL, & TM modifies are available for use with each of these codes.

PT Codes (cont.)

Components therapists will use to select appropriate evaluation CPT codes:

1. Patient history and comorbidities
2. Examination and the use of standardized tests and measures
3. Clinical presentation
4. Clinical decision making

PT Codes – Low Complexity

- History – A history of present problem with no personal factors and/or comorbidities that impact the plan of care
- Examination – An Examination of body systems using standardized tests and measures in addressing 1 or 2 elements from any of the following: body structures and functions, activity limitations, and/or participation restrictions
- Clinical Presentation – An clinical presentation with stable and/or uncomplicated characteristics
- Decision Making – Clinical decision making of low complexity using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome
- Time - Typically, 20 minutes are spent face-to face with the patient and/or family

PT Codes – Moderate Complexity

- History – A history of present problem with 1-2 personal factors and/or comorbidities that impact the plan of care
- Examination – An Examination of body systems using standardized tests and measures in addressing the total of 3 or more elements from any of the following: body structures and functions, activity limitations, and/or participation restrictions
- Clinical Presentation – An evolving clinical presentation with changing characteristics
- Decision Making – Clinical decision making of moderate complexity using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome
- Time - Typically, 30 minutes are spent face-to face with the patient and/or family

PT Codes – High Complexity

- History – A history of present problem with 3 or more personal factors and/or comorbidities that impact the plan of care
- Examination – An Examination of body systems using standardized tests and measures in addressing the total of 4 or more elements from any of the following: body structures and functions, activity limitations, and/or participation restrictions
- Clinical Presentation – A clinical presentation with unstable and unpredictable characteristics
- Decision Making – Clinical decision making of high complexity using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome
- Typically, 45 minutes are spent face-to face with the patient and/or family

Occupational Therapy (OT) Codes

- Old Code: 97003 – Occupational therapy evaluation – Deleted 12/31/2016
- New Codes (available 1/1/2017):
  - 97165 - Occupational therapy: low complexity
  - 97166 - Occupational therapy: moderate complexity
  - 97167 - Occupational therapy: high complexity

The HT, TL, & TM modifies are available for use with each of these codes.

OT Codes (cont.)

Components therapists will use to select appropriate evaluation CPT codes:

1. Patient history and comorbidities
2. Examination and the use of standardized tests and measures
3. Clinical presentation
4. Clinical decision making

OT Codes – Low Complexity

- History – An occupational profile and medical and therapy history, which includes a brief history including review of medical and/or therapy records relating to the presenting problem
- Examination – An assessment that identifies 1-3 performance defects (ie, relating to physical, cognitive, or psychosocial skills) that result in the activity limitations and/or participation restrictions
- Decision Making – Clinical decision making of low analytic complexity, which includes an analysis of the occupational profile, analysis of data from problem-focused assessment(s), and consideration of a limited number of treatment options. Patient presents with no comorbidities, that affect occupational performance. Modification of tasks or assistance (eg, physical or verbal) with assessment(s) is not necessary to enable patient to complete evaluation component
- Time - Typically, 30 minutes are spent face-to face with the patient and/or family

OT Codes – Moderate Complexity

- History – An occupational profile and medical and therapy history, which includes an expanded brief review of medical and/or therapy records and additional review of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial history related to current functional performance
- Examination – An assessment that identifies 3-5 performance defects (ie, relating to physical, cognitive, or psychosocial skills) that result in the activity limitations and/or participation restrictions
- Decision Making – Clinical decision making of moderate analytic complexity, which includes an analysis of the occupational profile, analysis of data from detailed assessment(s), and consideration of a several treatment options. Patient may present with comorbidities, that affect occupational performance. Minimal to moderate modification of tasks or assistance (eg, physical or verbal) with assessment(s) is necessary to enable the patient to complete evaluation component
- Time - Typically, 45 minutes are spent face-to face with the patient and/or family

OT Codes – High Complexity

- History – An occupational profile and medical and therapy history, which includes an expanded brief review of medical and/or therapy records and extensive additional review of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial history related to current functional performance
- Examination – An assessment that identifies 5 or more performance defects (ie, relating to physical, cognitive, or psychosocial skills) that result in the activity limitations and/or participation restrictions
- Decision Making – Clinical decision making of high analytic complexity, which includes an analysis of the occupational profile, analysis of data from detailed assessment(s), and consideration of a several treatment options. Patient presents with comorbidities that affect occupational performance. Significant modification of tasks or assistance (eg, physical or verbal) with assessment(s) is necessary to enable the patient to complete evaluation component
- Time - Typically, 60 minutes are spent face-to face with the patient and/or family

General Information

- Effective dates:
  - Use codes 97001 & 97003 for dates of service on or before 12/31/2016
  - Use codes 97161, 97162, 97163, 97165, 97166, & 97167 for all dates of service on or after 1/1/2017
- Judgement calls: The coding criteria are general guidelines, it is up to the therapist to determine which level of complexity is appropriate
- For additional information contact:

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