



## **Billing and Reimbursement Policy: Physical Medicine and Therapies**

Key coding and reimbursement points include:

- Physical therapy is billed in 15-minute increments.
- Services must be performed by a contracted Physical Therapist in order to be reimbursed.
- One initial evaluation is allowed per condition.
- A single 15- minute unit of physical therapy is equal or greater than 8 minutes but less than 23 minutes.
- Physical Therapists should not bill for any services of less than 8 minutes. Please follow the following guidelines for billing multiple units of physical therapy services:
  - 2 units are greater to or equal to 23 minutes but less than 38 minutes
  - 3 units are greater to or equal to 38 minutes but less than 53 minutes
  - 4 units are greater to or equal to 53 minutes but less than 68 minutes
  - 5 units are greater to or equal to 68 minutes but less than 83 minutes
  - 6 units are greater to or equal to 83 minutes but less than 98 minutes
  - 7 units are greater to or equal to 98 minutes but less than 113 minutes
  - 8 units are greater to or equal to 113 minutes but less than 128 minutes
- When more than one physical therapy service is billed in a calendar day, the total number of units billed is based on the total treatment time.
- The timing of each unit excludes any other pre or post treatment services. The patient should be timed from when the actual therapies or services begin. Waiting, exercise, rest periods, bathroom breaks, and clothing changes are excluded from the calculation of the unit minutes.
- Medical record documentation by the physical therapist should indicate the beginning and ending times of each modality and the outcomes of each treatment. As in all physical therapy service, the patient's condition along with the need for services that can only be provided by a licensed Physical Therapist are key determinants of medical necessity.
- Code 97010 (application of modality to one or more areas; hot or cold packs) is a bundled procedure and not separately reimbursable.
- GP, GO and GN may be billed for these services.



- Modifiers 25 or 59 may be used to indicate a separately identifiable service.
- This policy applies to place of service 11, 22, 50 and 62.

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