

Follow-up information from January 15 IRF PPS National Provider Call

1. Clarification regarding start and end time when coding concurrent or group therapy on the IRF PAI.

When conducting concurrent and group therapy sessions, start and end times do not need to be the same for all patients participating. The exact time spent for each individual participating in a concurrent or group therapy session should be reported as such. Any additional time either prior to or following participation in a group or therapy session that an individual receives one-on-one therapy should be recorded as individual therapy. We believe that providers will be able to accurately and effectively document the amount of time that the patient is receiving therapy, as well as the correct mode.

Example 1: Mr. A begins PT to address lower extremity strengthening at 9:00 am. Mrs. G enters at 9:30 am and begins working with the same therapist on upper extremity range of motion. Both patients engage with the PT until 10:00 am. At that time, Mr. A leaves and Mrs. G continues with her exercises until 10:30 am.

Mr. A's therapy time should be coded as:

Total minutes of Individual therapy: 30 minutes (9:00am to 9:30am)

Total minutes of Concurrent therapy: 30 minutes (9:30am to 10:00am)

Mrs. G's therapy time should be coded as:

Total minutes of Concurrent therapy: 30 minutes (9:30am to 10:00am)

Total minutes of Individual therapy: 30 minutes (10:00am to 10:30am)

Example 2: An SLP is working with Patients A, B, C, and D in a communication group. At 2:00pm, the group begins with all four patients present. At 2:12 pm, Patient A leaves to go to the bathroom and returns at 2:28 pm. At 2:37 pm, Patient B leaves for an appointment and does not return. The communication group ends at 3:00 pm. This scenario should be coded as follows:

Patient A:

Total minutes of Group therapy: 44 minutes (2:00pm to 2:12pm, 2:28pm to 3:00pm)

Patient B:

Total minutes of Group therapy: 37minutes (2:00pm to 2:37pm)

Patient C:

Total minutes of Group therapy: 60 minutes (2:00pm to 3:00pm)

Patient D:

Total minutes of Group therapy: 60 minutes (2:00pm to 3:00pm)

NOTE: If at any time, there is only one patient remaining from the original group, then the time spent with this patient would be coded as individual therapy.

NOTE: One therapist can only provide one mode of therapy at a time. Therapy may only be comprised of one group session or one concurrent session or one individual session.



2. Clarification regarding how to code item #24A (indicating whether arthritis conditions meet the 60 percent rule regulatory requirements) on the patient's IRF-PAI for patients who do not have any arthritis conditions recorded in items #21, #22, or #24.

If the patient does not have any arthritis conditions recorded in items #21, #22, or #24 of the IRF-PAI, then the IRF should code "0 – No" in item #24A.