Therapy Codes Update

MLN Matters Number: MM11791 Revised
Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11791

Related CR Release Date: May 26, 2020
Effective Date: March 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: R10161OTN
Implementation Date: MACs June 16, 2020
FISS - July 6, 2020

Note: We revised this article to reflect a revised CR11791. The CR revision changed the implementation date for the MACs and we revised that date in the article. Also, we revised the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

This article informs you of updates to the list of codes that sometimes or always describe therapy services. The additions to the therapy code list reflect those made in the Calendar Year (CY) 2020 for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

Section 1834(k)(5) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires all claims for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services and all Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) services be reported using a uniform coding system. The CY 2020 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Level II HCPCS are the coding systems used for reporting these services. The therapy code listing is on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/TherapyServices/index.html.

CR 11791 implements policies reflective of those related to the interim final rule with comment (IFC) entitled Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 PHE (CMS-1744-IFC); and the IFC-entitled Medicare and Medicaid Programs Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 PHE (CMS-5531-IFC); and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). CR 11791 updates the therapy code list and associated policies effective March 1, 2020, for the duration of
the COVID-19 PHE.

CMS is designating the below listed codes we’ve collectively termed as Communications Technology-Based Services (CTBS) as “sometimes therapy,” to permit physicians and Non-Physician Practitioners (NPPs), including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists to provide these services outside a therapy plan of care when appropriate. When provided by psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, or other practitioners, these CTBS codes are never considered therapy services and may not be reported with a GN, GO, or GP therapy modifier. When provided by therapists in private practice or therapists in institutional providers of therapy services, the CTBS codes are always provided under a physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech-language pathology plan of care and must be reported with the associated GP, GO, or GN therapy modifier.

These three CPT codes, with their short descriptors, are added for telephone assessment and management services:

- CPT code 98966 (Hc pro phone call 5-10 min)
- CPT code 98967 (Hc pro phone call 11-20 min)
- CPT code 98968 (Hc pro phone call 21-30 min)

These five HCPCS codes, with their short descriptors, are added for remote evaluation of patient images/video, virtual check-ins, and online assessments (e-visits):

- HCPCS code G2010 (Remot image submit by pt)
- HCPCS code G2012 (Brief check in by MD/QHP)
- HCPCS code G2061 (Qual nonMD est pt 5-10 min)
- HCPCS code G2062 (Qual nonMD est pt 11-20 min)
- HCPCS code G2063 (Qual nonMD est pt 21 min)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**


If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at [http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list](http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list).
**DOCUMENT HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 26, 2020</td>
<td>We revised this article to reflect a revised CR11791. The CR revision changed the implementation date for the MACs and we revised that date in the article. Also, we revised the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15, 2020</td>
<td>Initial article released.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer:** Paid for by the Department of Health & Human Services. This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2019 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2013-2020, the American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois. Reproduced by CMS with permission. No portion of the AHA copyrighted materials contained within this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the AHA. AHA copyrighted materials including the UB-04 codes and descriptions may not be removed, copied, or utilized within any software, product, service, solution or derivative work without the written consent of the AHA. If an entity wishes to utilize any AHA materials, please contact the AHA at 312-893-6816. Making copies or utilizing the content of the UB-04 Manual, including the codes and/or descriptions, for internal purposes, resale and/or to be used in any product or publication; creating any modified or derivative work of the UB-04 Manual and/or codes and descriptions; and/or making any commercial use of UB-04 Manual or any portion thereof, including the codes and/or descriptions, is only authorized with an express license from the American Hospital Association. To license the electronic data file of UB-04 Data Specifications, contact Tim Carlson at (312) 893-6816. You may also contact us at ub04@healthforum.com

The American Hospital Association (the “AHA”) has not reviewed, and is not responsible for, the completeness or accuracy of any information contained in this material, nor was the AHA or any of its affiliates, involved in the preparation of this material, or the analysis of information provided in the material. The views and/or positions presented in the material do not necessarily represent the views of the AHA. CMS and its products and services are not endorsed by the AHA or any of its affiliates.