



Health Care Agency • Behavioral Health Services • CYS Quality, Review & Training

January 2013

CPT Code Changes

(Changes related to MD coding will be covered in future QRTips)

As of 1/1/13, a new series of psychotherapy codes will replace the former Individual therapy codes. The new ED-PN will reflect these changes in the drop down menus. Note that the time ranges for the new psychotherapy codes are different than the previous Individual Therapy codes.

➤ New Psychotherapy codes (effective 1-1-13 include):

- Psychotherapy 16-37 min CPT 90832
- Psychotherapy 38-52 min CPT 90834
- Psychotherapy 53 min and up CPT 90837
- Psychotherapy less than 16 minutes is coded Individual Rehab services 90899-17

➤ DELETED effective 1/1/13:

- Individual Therapy/Counseling 20-30 min CPT 90804
- Individual Therapy/Counseling 40-50 min CPT 90806
- Individual Therapy/Counseling 75-80 min CPT 90808
- And 90805/90807/90809

Interactive “add-on” for psychotherapy services CPT +90785:

If you use an interpreter or play therapy to facilitate your interaction with the clients, this is viewed as having additional complexity, and therefore many 3rd party payors actually pay extra.

To code this “interactive complexity” for the 3 psychotherapy codes noted above, and/or group psychotherapy (but not family group), you would

1. Select the proper psychotherapy code, and
2. Also select in the modifier field an interactive “add on” code of +90785.

Rehab Codes are returning:

“Rehabilitation Services” are an adjunct to psychotherapy and are designed to target specific problematic behaviors, not feelings or emotional states. Rehabilitation Services must restore, maintain, and/or teach the client or the/caregiver new skills that will help reduce the problematic behaviors and impairments. These are the codes that rehab workers would typically use.

The rehab codes include:

- Individual Rehab Services CPT 90899-17 (H2015)
- Family Rehab Services CPT 90899-157(H2015)
- Group Educational CPT 99078 (H2015)

Crisis Psychotherapy (CPT 90839)

This new CPT code consists of an **urgent assessment** and **history of a crisis state, a mental status exam,** and a **disposition**.

The treatment includes:

- Psychotherapy to defuse the crisis situation and restore safety
- The implementation of psychotherapeutic interventions to minimize the potential for psychological trauma.

The presenting problem is **typically life threatening or complex** and **requires immediate attention** to a patient in high distress. The total duration of the time is spent face-to-face with the patient and/or the family.

If the new Crisis Psychotherapy code (90839) is used, it would be used as follows:

- Less than 30 minutes of time spent, this code is not used. Instead use Crisis Intervention (90899)
- Minutes 30-74 use this code 90839
- Minutes 75-104 use this code and select in the modifiers drop down a +90840 “add on”.
- Minutes 105-134 use this code and select in the modifiers drop down +90840 and next to it type or handwrite the #2
- For each additional time period of up to 30 minutes, just increase the number you handwrite in next to that add on code on the ED-PN.

Reminder: Crisis Psychotherapy is SFC 70 and the **maximum allowable of 480 min/ day** applies to this code just like the other Crisis code of 90899.

Note: Only **licensed or waived staff** can use the crisis psychotherapy code.