

Major Changes to CPT Codes for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy in 2013

September 2012

Effective January 1, 2013, there will be significant changes to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for psychiatry and psychotherapy services. The CPT code set is defined by the American Medical Association (AMA) and describes procedures and services by physicians and other health care professionals. CPT codes are used as the basis for billing third-party payers, and changes to these codes can affect insurers' coverage and pricing decisions. Changes to CPT code sets are made by AMA on an annual basis, but decisions made this year will have a much higher-than-usual impact on psychiatry and psychotherapy services.

Significant Changes to the 2013 Psychiatry CPT Code Set

Several commonly used psychiatric CPT codes have been deleted or modified. Changes include:

- Removal of evaluation and management (E&M) plus psychotherapy codes from the psychiatry section (90805, 90807)
- Deletion of pharmacologic management (providers to use appropriate E&M code)
- Psychotherapy and E&M services are distinguished from each other (time spent on E&M services is not counted towards psychotherapeutic services, and separate codes can be used in combination with one another)
- Inclusion of add on codes for psychiatry, which are services performed in addition to a primary service or procedure (and never as a stand-alone service)
- Addition of code 90785 for interactive complexity
- New code for psychotherapy for a patient in crisis

The scope of these changes is not yet fully known – AMA's revisions are just the first step in a longer implementation process (see chart below). While insurers, including Medicare and Medicaid, cannot use codes that were outright deleted by AMA, they can still make pricing and coverage decisions within the remaining (and new or modified) codes. Whatever changes are ultimately adopted by payers, they are likely to have a large impact on health care agencies' workflow, billing processes, and practice management systems.

CPT Code Change and Adoption Process

Step 1: AMA adopted changes to CPT codes (additions, deletions, modifications) in September 2012.

Step 2: Insurers make decisions about which codes to continue to pay for and establish pricing. They cannot continue to use CPT codes that have been deleted by AMA.

NOTE: Many Medicaid agencies have coverage and reimbursement policies that tie back to Medicare coverage decisions made by CMS.

Step 2a: CMS publishes rule about 2013 pricing for Medicare, usually in November.

Step 2b: State Medicaid agencies decide which codes to keep and adjust pricing.

Step 3: Insurers and providers make changes to billing systems, contracts, and work flow, as needed, for services provided after 1/1/2013

Crosswalk: 2012 to 2013 CPT Code Sets

Included below is a crosswalk of some of the major changes to the psychiatry section of the CPT code set. The National Council strongly encourages organizations to purchase their own copy of the 2013 CPT code book at: www.amabookstore.com or (800) 621-8335.

2012 Code	Action Taken	2013 Code		Report with Psychotherapy Add-On Code		Report with Code for Interactive Complexity (90785)
Diagnostic Procedures						
90801: psychiatric diagnostic evaluation	Deleted	90791: psychiatric diagnostic evaluation (no medical services)	+	n/a	+	When appropriate
		90792: psychiatric diagnostic evaluation with medical services (or E&M new patient codes)	+	n/a	+	When appropriate
90802: interactive psychiatric diagnostic evaluation	Deleted	90791 or 90792	+	n/a	+	90785
Psychotherapy						
90804: outpatient psychotherapy, 20-30 min.	Deleted	90832: psychotherapy, 30 minutes	+	n/a	+	When appropriate
90805: outpatient psychotherapy with E&M services, 20-30 min.	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	90833: 30 min add-on	+	When appropriate
90806: outpatient psychotherapy, 45-50 min.	Deleted	90834: psychotherapy, 45 minutes	+	n/a	+	When appropriate
90807: outpatient psychotherapy with E&M services, 45-50 min.	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	90836: 45 min add-on	+	When appropriate
90808: outpatient psychotherapy, 75-80 min.	Deleted	90837: psychotherapy, 60 minutes	+	n/a	+	When appropriate
90809: outpatient psychotherapy with E&M services, 75-80 min.	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	90838: 60 min add-on	+	When appropriate
Interactive Psychotherapy						
90810: interactive psychotherapy, 20-30 min.	Deleted	90832: psychotherapy, 30 min.	+	n/a	+	90785
90811: interactive psychotherapy with E&M, 20-30 min.	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	90833: 30 min add-on	+	90785
90812: interactive psychotherapy, 45-50 min.	Deleted	90834: psychotherapy, 45 min.	+	n/a	+	90785
90813: interactive psychotherapy with E&M, 45-50 min.	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	90836: 45-min add-on	+	90785
90814: interactive psychotherapy, 75-80 min.	Deleted	90837: psychotherapy, 60 min.	+	n/a	+	90785
90815: interactive psychotherapy with E&M, 75-80 min.	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	90838: 60 min add-on	+	90785
Other						
(None)	New code	90839: psychotherapy for crisis, first 60 minutes	+	90840: psychotherapy for crisis, each additional 30 min.		No
90857: interactive group psychotherapy	Deleted	90853: group psychotherapy (other than multiple-family group)	+	n/a	+	90785
90862: pharmacologic management	Deleted	Appropriate E&M code	+	Yes , according to psychotherapy time		No

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