

2019 ABA CPT Code Update Overview

November 14, 2018

Resources we should gather:

- 2019 CPT Code Book (available at the American Medical Association store)
 - Code Conversion Table (Provided by ABA Work Group)
 - APBA White Paper - “Identifying Applied Behavior Analytic Interventions”
 - BACB Practice Guidelines for ASD (<https://www.bacb.com/asd-practice-document/>)
1. Current CPT Codes are Category III, or temporary codes are transitioning to mostly Category I, or permanent codes with some Category III remaining, but modified.
 2. Category III - Temporary Code; must have some evidence of clinical efficacy.
 - a. Payers are not required to Adopt
 3. Category I - Permanent Code; performed by QHPs as industry standard, consistent and current practice in the specialty, clinical efficacy must be established in the research literature
 - a. Payers **must** adopt (if they accept E claims via HIPAA requirements), but may supplement with H codes (but not replace with H codes; e.g, if the payer elects to reimburse for non-contact time, such as supervision, they may use an H code to bill that service, but they may not replace the 8 Category I Codes with H code).

There are now 8 modified codes as Category I (97151-97158) and 2 modified codes to remain Category III (0362T, 0373T) effective January 1, 2019.

Assessment Codes

97151 - Behavior Identification Assessment delivered by the QHP with the client present for assessment activities, but not present for indirect services.

- Now billed by the unit in 15 minute increments rather than an untimed code.
- Can bill for record review, assessment planning, assessment, data analysis, and report/treatment plan writing.
- **This is the only code that allows billing for indirect services.**

97152 - Behavior Identification Supporting Assessment delivered by a technician or QHP with the client present.

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Includes any assessment activities deemed needed by the QHP.

0362T - Behavior Identification Supporting Assessment delivered by at least two technicians with the QHP onsite and readily available.

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Must have 2 or more technicians
- Used only for destructive behavior
- Must be delivered in an environment customized for the client’s behavior

Treatment Codes

97153 - Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol delivered by technician or QHP with the client present.

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- There should be differential rates based on provider (e.g., RBT rate, BCaBA rate, BCBA rate, BCBA-D rate)

97155 - Adaptive Behavior Treatment with Protocol Modification delivered by QHP with technician and client present (may also include caregiver).

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Supervision is not recognized by CPT codes, but the term “direction of the technician” is equivalent, but the QHP must interact with the client and the technician. The QHP cannot simply use this code for treatment planning with the client present.
- This code can be used for parent training purposes, but not concurrently billed with Caregiver Training (97156/97157).
- **97153 and 97155 can be billed concurrently.** Example: if client receives 3 hours of 97153 with a technician and during hour two, the QHP delivers one hour of 97155, you would be allowed to bill 12 units of 97153 and four units of 97155.

0373T - Adaptive Behavior Treatment with Protocol Modification delivered by QHP with two technicians, and client present (may also include caregiver).

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Used for destructive behavior

Group Codes

Note: there are no longer codes for Social Skills Training Groups

97154 - Group Adaptive Behavior Treatment by Protocol delivered by a technician or QHP, with at least 2, but no more than 8 clients.

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Must have at least 2 clients, but no more than 8.

97158 - Group Adaptive Behavior Treatment with Protocol Modification delivered by QHP with technician and client present (may also include caregiver).

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Must have at least 2 clients, but no more than 8.

- QHP must interact with the client and the technician. The QHP cannot simply use this code for treatment planning with the client present.
- This code can be used for parent training purposes, but not concurrently billed with Caregiver Training (97156/97157).
- There was no discussion if this code can be billed concurrently with 97154.

Parent Training

97156 - Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment Guidance, delivered by QHP with caregivers (client may or may not be present).

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Clients are now permitted to attend if deemed necessary

97157 - Multiple Family Adaptive Behavior Treatment Guidance, delivered by QHP with caregivers (client may or may not be present).

- Billed per 15 minute unit
- Minimum of 2 family units, maximum of 8
- Family unit is defined as the total number of representatives attending training per client, so you may actually have more than 8 people in the session, but only a maximum of 8 family units may attend.