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## Local Educational Agency (LEA) Service: Physical Therapy

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This section contains information about physical therapy services rendered in connection with the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

- Qualifications that practitioners must meet to render services are outlined in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA) Rendering Practitioner Qualifications* section of this manual.
- Modifier descriptions are located in the *Modifiers: Approved List* section of this manual. Additional modifier information is in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA) Billing and Reimbursement Overview* section of this manual.
- «Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Health and Support Plan (IHSP) are defined in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA): Individualized Plans* section of this manual.»
- Documentation and records retention requirements are described in *the Local Educational Agency (LEA): A Provider's Guide* section of this manual.

### **Physical Therapy**

«Physical therapy is the physical or corrective rehabilitation or physical or corrective treatment of any bodily or mental condition of a person by the use of physical, chemical and other properties of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage and active, resistive or passive exercise.» Physical therapy includes evaluation, treatment planning, instruction and consultative services.

«California *Business and Professions Code*, Section 2620.»

### **Covered Services**

Physical therapy services include:

- IEP/IFSP physical therapy assessments
- «Developmental assessments (non-IEP/IFSP)
- Physical therapy treatments, including individual and group treatments»

## Rendering Practitioners: Reimbursable Services

«The following chart indicates the services that are reimbursable to LEAs when performed by the indicated qualified practitioner(s):»

«**Reimbursable Services Table**»

«Qualified Practitioners	Reimbursable Services
Licensed physical therapists	IEP/IFSP physical therapy assessments Developmental assessments (non-IEP/IFSP) Physical therapy treatments, including individual and group treatments
Licensed physical therapist assistants	Physical therapy treatments, including individual and group treatments (group constitutes treatment to two or more students)»

## **Prescriptions**

### **«Assessments**

Physical therapy assessments and developmental assessments require a written prescription by a physician, dentist or podiatrist acting within the practitioner's scope of practice (*California Code of Regulations* [CCR], Title 22, Section 51309[a]). In substitution of a written prescription by a physician, dentist or podiatrist, a registered credentialed school nurse, teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

### **Treatments**

All treatment services must be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP or other care plan. The written prescriptions of a physician, dentist or podiatrist is required for physical therapy services (*California Code of Regulations*, Title 22, Section 51309[a]). A prescribing physician does not need to be the student's primary care physician, and does not need to personally evaluate the student to issue a prescription for physical therapy treatment services. However, the prescribing physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating physical therapist, and must review the student's records prior to prescribing services.

If authority has been delegated by a supervising physician, the following practitioners may sign authorization forms:

- Nurse practitioners practicing under standardized procedures, developed in collaboration with a physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Section 2835.7)
- Physician assistants with a written Practice Agreement (prior to January 1, 2020, a Delegation of Services Agreement) and who are under the supervision of a licensed physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Sections 3502 and 3502.3)

The written prescription, which must be maintained in the student's files, must be updated annually and is valid for one year from the date of the prescription. Prescriptions may be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan.»

## **Supervision Requirements**

«The following chart indicates whether a rendering practitioner requires supervision to provide physical therapy services.

**Supervision Requirements Table**

<b>Qualified Practitioners</b>	<b>Supervision Requirement</b>
Licensed physical therapists	No supervision required to provide physical therapy services
Licensed physical therapist assistants	Requires supervision by a licensed physical therapist

## **Supervising Physical Therapist**

The licensed physical therapist must at all times be responsible for all physical therapy services provided to the student. A licensed physical therapist assistant may render physical therapy services to students if they are under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist acting within their scope of practice and the supervision requirements under their license.

California *Business and Professions Code*, Section 2630.3.»

## **Service Limitations: Daily**

«Physical therapy treatment services that are authorized in an IEP, IFSP or IHSP are limited to 24 units per student per day.» This daily limitation includes a maximum of three initial service increments (3 units x 15 minutes = 45 minutes) and 21 additional service increments.

«Developmental assessments provided to non-IEP/IFSP students are limited to four units per student per day.»

## **Initial and Additional Treatment Services**

«One physical therapy initial service per provider, per student, per day may be billed.» The initial service for physical therapy treatment is based on 15 thru 45 continuous minutes; one unit may be billed for each 15-minute increment. A maximum of three units may be billed for the initial service; all units are reimbursable under one initial service maximum allowable rate. «As a reminder, an initial service of 45 minutes is only required when a practitioner is wishing to be reimbursed for an additional 15-minute service increment.»

Additional services are billed when more than 45 minutes are spent on the initial service.

«Additional services are billed in time increments of 15 minutes and may be rounded up when seven or more continuous minutes are provided.» Additional LEA services must be billed in conjunction with an initial service treatment CPT® code. If the student receives more than one treatment session per day (for example, two physical therapy treatment sessions at different times during the day), the total treatment time for the second session must be billed as additional treatment services.

## **«Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Chart: Physical Therapy»**

The following chart contains the CPT procedure codes with modifiers, if necessary, to bill for physical therapy services. Service limitations are also included.

«The “Qualified Practitioners/Modifier” listing following some charts indicates whether an additional modifier (beyond those already indicated in the “Procedure Code/Modifier” column) must be entered on the claim to identify the type of practitioner who rendered the service.»

Reimbursement rates for these services are in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA) Billing Codes and Reimbursement Rates* section of this manual.

### **«IEP/IFSP Assessments Table»**

<b>Procedure Code/Modifier</b>	<b>LEA Program Usage</b>	<b>«LEA Limitations (Per Student)»</b>
97163 TL (IFSP)	Initial IFSP physical therapy assessment	One per lifetime per provider
97163 TM (IEP)	Initial or triennial IEP physical therapy assessment	One every third state fiscal year per provider
97163 52 TL (IFSP) or 97163 52 TM (IEP)	Annual IEP/IFSP physical therapy assessment	One every state fiscal year per provider when an initial or triennial IEP/IFSP physical therapy assessment is not billed
97164 TL (IFSP) or 97164 TM (IEP)	Amended IEP/IFSP physical therapy assessment	One every 30 days per provider

### **«Assessments (Non-IEP/IFSP) Table»**

<b>Procedure Code/Modifier</b>	<b>LEA Program Usage</b>	<b>«LEA Limitations (Per Student)»</b>
96110 GP	Developmental assessment, each completed 15-minute increment (applies to initial assessment and re-assessment)	4 units per day

**«Treatments (Pursuant to IEP, IFSP or IHSP) Table»**

<b>Procedure Code/Modifier</b>	<b>LEA Program Usage</b>	<b>«LEA Limitations (Per Student)»</b>
«97110 TL (IFSP) or 97110 TM (IEP) or 97110 (IHSP)»	«Individual physical therapy initial service, 15 thru 45 continuous minutes (bill 1 unit per 15-minute increment)»	3 units per day
«97110 22 TL (IFSP) or 97110 22 TM (IEP) or 97110 22 (IHSP)»	«Individual physical therapy service, additional 15-minute increment»	21 units per day
«97150 TL (IFSP) or 97150 TM (IEP) or 97150 (IHSP)»	«Group physical therapy initial service, 15 thru 45 continuous minutes (bill 1 unit per 15-minute increment)»	3 units per day
«97150 22 TL (IFSP) or 97150 22 TM (IEP) or 97150 22 (IHSP)»	«Group physical therapy service, additional 15-minute increment»	21 units per day

«Qualified Practitioners (Modifier):

- Licensed physical therapist (GP)
- Licensed physical therapist assistant (CQ)»

## **Legend**

Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Description</b>
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.