
Local Educational Agency (LEA) Service: Occupational Therapy

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This section contains information about occupational 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.

Occupational Therapy

«Occupational therapy is the therapeutic use of goal-directed activities (occupations) to support participation, performance and function in roles and situations in various settings. Occupational therapy services include occupational therapy assessment, treatment planning, treatment, education and consultation.» Occupational therapy assessment identifies performance abilities and limitations that are necessary for self-maintenance, learning, work and other similar meaningful activities. Occupational therapy treatment is focused on developing, improving or restoring functional daily living skills, compensating for and preventing dysfunction or minimizing disability.

«California *Business and Professions Code*, Section 2570.2.»

Covered Services

Occupational therapy services include:

- IEP/IFSP occupational therapy assessments
- «Developmental assessments (non-IEP/IFSP)
- Occupational 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 occupational therapist»	IEP/IFSP occupational therapy assessments «Developmental assessments (non-IEP/IFSP) Occupational therapy treatments, including individual and group treatments»
«Licensed occupational therapy assistant	Occupational therapy treatments, including individual and group treatments (group constitutes treatment to two or more students)»

Prescriptions

«Assessments

Occupational 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 prescription of a physician, dentist or podiatrist is required for occupational 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 occupational therapy treatment services. However, the prescribing physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating occupational 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 occupational therapy services.»

«**Supervision Requirements Table**»

«Qualified Practitioners	Supervision Requirement
Licensed occupational therapist	No supervision required to provide occupational therapy services
Licensed occupational therapy assistant	Requires supervision by a licensed occupational therapist»

«Supervising Occupational Therapist

The licensed occupational therapist must at all times be responsible for all occupational therapy services provided to the student. Appropriate supervision of a licensed occupational therapy assistant includes, at a minimum:

- At least weekly review and inspect all aspects of occupational therapy services rendered by the occupational therapy assistant.
- Document the supervision, which shall include either documentation of direct client care by the supervising occupational therapist, documentation of review of the client's medical and/or treatment record and the occupational therapy services provided by the occupational therapy assistant, or co-signature of the occupational therapy assistant's documentation.
- Provision by the supervising licensed occupational therapist of periodic (at least once every 30 days) on-site supervision and observation of the student care rendered by the occupational therapy assistant.
 - The supervising occupational therapist shall be readily available in person or by telecommunication to the occupational therapy assistant at all times while the occupational therapy assistant is providing occupational therapy services.
- The supervising occupational therapist has continuing responsibility to follow the progress of the student, provide direct care and assure that the occupational therapy assistant does not function autonomously.
- The supervising occupational therapist shall determine that the occupational therapy assistant possesses a current license prior to allowing the person to provide occupational therapy services.

Business and Professions Code, Sections 2570.2 and 2570.3; California Code of Regulations, Section 4181(a)(1).»

Service Limitations: Daily

«Occupational 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 occupational therapy initial service per provider, per student, per day may be billed. The initial service for occupational 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 occupational 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: Occupational Therapy»

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

The “Qualified Practitioners (Modifier)” listing following a chart 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

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Occupational Therapy Services Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
97167 TL (IFSP)	Initial IFSP occupational therapy assessment	One per lifetime per provider
97167 TM (IEP)	Initial or triennial IEP occupational therapy assessment	One every third state fiscal year per provider
97167 52 TL (IFSP) or 97167 52 TM (IEP)	Annual IEP/IFSP occupational therapy assessment	One every state fiscal year per provider when an initial or triennial IEP/IFSP occupational therapy assessment is not billed
97168 TL (IFSP) or 97168 TM (IEP)	Amended IEP/IFSP occupational therapy assessment	One every 30 days per provider

Non-IEP/IFSP Assessments

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Occupational Therapy Services Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
96110 GO	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)»

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Occupational Therapy Services Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
«97110 TL (IFSP) or 97110 TM (IEP) or 97110 (IHSP)»	Individual occupational 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 occupational therapy service, additional 15-minute increment»	21 units per day
«97150 TL (IFSP) or 97150 TM (IEP) or 97150 (IHSP)»	Group occupational 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 occupational therapy service, additional 15-minute increment»	21 units per day

«Qualified Practitioners (Modifier)

- Licensed occupational therapist (GO)
- Licensed occupational therapy assistant (CO)»

Legend

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

Symbol	Description
«	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.