

## 2017 Annual Update to the Medicaid and Medicare Therapy Code List for OT & PT

### Effective 12/31/2016 the 4-code set (97001-97004) for Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) evaluative procedures will terminate.

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel created **eight new codes (97161-97168) to replace the 4-code set (97001-97004)** for Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) evaluative procedures. The new CPT code descriptors for PT and OT evaluative procedures include specific components that are required for reporting as well as the corresponding typical face-to-face times for each service.

**Evaluation Codes.** The CPT Editorial Panel created three new codes to replace each existing PT and OT evaluation code, 97001 and 97003, respectively. These new evaluation codes are based on patient complexity and the level of clinical decision-making – low, moderate and high complexity: for PT, codes 97161, 97162 and 97163; and for OT, codes 97165, 97166 and 97167.

**Re-evaluation Codes.** One new PT code, 97164, and one new OT code, 97168, were created to replace the existing codes – 97002 and 97004, respectively. The re-evaluation codes are reported for an established patient's when a revised plan of care is indicated.

Just as their predecessor codes were, the new codes are “always therapy” and must be reported with the appropriate therapy modifier, GP or GO, to indicate that the services are furnished under a PT or OT plan of care, respectively.

Effective 1/1/2017 the new PT Evaluative procedure codes are listed in the chart below with their short descriptors\* and the required corresponding therapy modifier:

CPT Code	Short Descriptor	Modifier
97161	PT EVAL LOW COMPLEX 20 MIN	GP
97162	PT EVAL MOD COMPLEX 30 MIN	GP
97163	PT EVAL HIGH COMPLEX 45 MIN	GP
97164	PT RE-EVAL EST PLAN CARE	GP

Effective 1/1/2017 the new OT Evaluative procedure codes are listed in the chart below with their short descriptors\* and the required corresponding therapy modifier:

CPT Code	Short Descriptor	Modifier
97165	OT EVAL LOW COMPLEX 30 MIN	GO
97166	OT EVAL MOD COMPLEX 45 MIN	GO
97167	OT EVAL HIGH COMPLEX 60 MIN	GO
97168	OT RE-EVAL EST PLAN CARE	GO

NOTE: Please note that the short descriptors cannot be used in place of the CPT long descriptions which officially define each new PT and OT service.

The official instruction, CR9782, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at:  
<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3654CP.pdf>

The therapy code list of “always” and “sometimes” therapy services is available at:  
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/TherapyServices/index.html>

[http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/review/Reimbursement/2017\\_01\\_01\\_Physical\\_Therapy\\_Fee\\_Schedule.pdf](http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/review/Reimbursement/2017_01_01_Physical_Therapy_Fee_Schedule.pdf)  
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