

Family psychotherapy

Background: Amerigroup Community Care supports the practice of rendering family therapy sessions when clinically appropriate for the care of our members. This update provides an overview for the billing and coding guidelines of these services.

The appropriate CPT codes for family therapy services are 90846 and 90847. CPT code 90846 is defined as **family psychotherapy without the patient present**. CPT code 90847 is defined as **family psychotherapy with the patient present**.

- Family psychotherapy is only acceptable when the primary purpose of counseling is to treat the patient's condition.
- Family therapy codes should not be billed when the therapist requests a brief update on the member's behaviors prior to or after an individual session takes place.

What is the impact of this change?

For all dates of service on or after January 1, 2019, the following claim edits will be in effect:

- If there are multiple family members in the family therapy session who are enrolled with Amerigroup, providers will receive reimbursement for the therapy session for only one of those patients. Providers should not bill a therapy session for each family member enrolled with Amerigroup.
- Providers will not be reimbursed for billing CPT codes 90846 and 90847 on the same date of service, even if they are for two separate sessions. Amerigroup will only reimburse for one of the family therapy codes per day.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.