

Provider Update

Individual and family psychotherapy

Background: This update provides an overview of the billing and coding guidelines for individual and family psychotherapy services.

✦ **What this means to you:** Amerigroup Community Care supports the practice of rendering individual and family therapy sessions on the same date of service. This provider update provides an overview for the billing and coding guidelines of these services.

What do I need to know?

Effective January 1, 2013, there were significant changes to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for psychiatry and psychotherapy services. Psychotherapy CPT codes 90832-90838 are defined by the American Medical Association (AMA) as **face-to-face psychotherapy services with the patient and/or family members**. These service codes include ongoing assessment and adjustment of psychotherapeutic interventions and may include involvement of family members or others in the treatment process.

Family therapy CPT codes 90846 and 90847 did not change with the 2013 AMA changes. CPT code 90846 is defined as **family psychotherapy without the patient present**. CPT code 90847 is defined as **family psychotherapy with the patient present**.

When to use psychotherapy versus family therapy CPT codes

Family psychotherapy is covered when there is a need to observe the patient's interaction with family members and/or where there is a need to assess the capabilities of and assist the family members in aiding in the management of the patient.

- Family psychotherapy is only acceptable when the primary purpose of counseling is the treatment of the patient's condition.
- Individual and family therapy codes can be billed on the same date of service if there are two separate counseling sessions – one with the patient and one with the family member and patient present.
- Providers should not bill an individual therapy code with the family therapy code if only one session of therapy is rendered.
- Family therapy codes should not be billed when the therapist requests a brief update on the member's behaviors prior to or after the individual session takes place.

The table on the next page provides a summary of the acceptable practices for billing individual and family psychotherapy services.



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Summary of the acceptable practices for billing 90832-90838, 90846, 90847, or 90832-90838 and 90847/90846

Who is present	Clinical focus of session	Appropriate CPT code
Patient only	Patient	90832-90838
Patient and family member(s)	Patient	90832-90838
Patient and family member(s)	Family member(s)	90847
Family member(s)	Family member(s)	90846
Session 1: patient only Session 2: patient and family member(s)	Session 1: patient Session 2: family member(s)	90832-90838 and 90847
Session 1: patient only Session 2: family member(s)	Session 1: patient Session 2: family member(s)	90832-90838 and 90846

Please note that Amerigroup has the following claim edits in place:

- 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 the Amerigroup-enrolled 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, regardless 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?

We appreciate the quality health care you provide to our members and we are committed to keeping you updated about issues and developments affecting your practice. If you have questions, please contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

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