

## **COVID-19: expansion of telemedicine for physical, occupational, and speech therapists and assistants**

Summit Community Care continues to closely monitor COVID-19 developments. We are working with Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services (DMS) to address the immediate needs of our members. Under the guidance of DHS, the following changes have been made to telemedicine procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DHS suspended the prohibition on use of telemedicine technology for limited occupational, physical or speech therapy services provided to established patients during the COVID-19 outbreak and the declaration of public health emergency. The telemedicine parental consultation code and regular therapy assistant codes will be billable on April 03, 2020. Regular therapy codes and the parental consultation code will be retroactive to dates of service March 20, 2020. These services will be available to established patients only, as described for dates of service until May 31, 2020. This code may be extended as required to address the public health emergency.

### **Parental consultation**

Parental consultation is a service that allows a therapist assistant to instruct a parent or caregiver on how to use therapeutic equipment or techniques with their child to continue working on therapy goals and objectives. To bill for this service, the therapy assistant must document that the parent or caregiver was present with a beneficiary.

The service must be provided using the appropriate real-time technology that includes both a video and audio component. The originating service requirement is relaxed so that the parent can receive this service from their home. The service may be provided in 15-minute sessions with a maximum of eight sessions per month.

### **Billing instructions Parental Consultation — T1014**

- T1014 — U1 Physical Therapy
- T1014 — UB, U1 Physical Therapy Assistant
- T1014 — U2 Occupational Therapy
- T1014 — UB, U2 Occupational Therapy Assistant
- T1014 — U3 Speech Language Therapy
- T1014 — UB, U3 Speech Language Therapy Assistant

Parental consultation is a service that allows a therapist to instruct a parent on how to use therapeutic equipment or techniques with their child to continue working on therapy goals and objectives. To bill for this service, the therapist must document that the parent was present with a beneficiary who is under age eighteen. The service must be provided using the appropriate real-time technology that includes both a video and audio component. The originating service requirement is relaxed so that the parent can receive this service from their home. The service can be provided in 15-minute sessions with a maximum of eight sessions per month.

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**Individual therapy services provided by a licensed physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, or therapy assistants**

To allow for continued therapy services for established patients during this time of social distancing, DMS is lifting the requirement that the beneficiary be located at a healthcare facility (originating site) to receive telemedicine services for the following services only:

- Individual physical therapy provided by a licensed physical therapist (97110-GT)
- Individual physical therapy provided by a licensed physical therapy assistant (97110-GT-UB)
- Individual occupational therapy provided by a licensed occupational therapist (97530-GT)
- Individual occupational therapy provided by a licensed occupational therapy assistant (97530-GT-UB)
- Individual speech therapy provided by a licensed speech-language pathologist (92507-GT)
- Individual Speech Therapy provided by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant (92507-GT-UB)

Parental or caregiver involvement is required during the session. Additionally, the technology used must be real-time and include a video and audio component. The sessions are limited to 30 minutes each, with a maximum of three sessions per week.

The following services cannot be completed via telemedicine:

- Evaluations and re-evaluations: However, if an annual evaluation is due during this time, the deadline may be extended until the patient is able to come into the office.
- Group services: To ensure quality and consistency of care to members, these services are subject to retrospective reviews and audits of. Please keep all records of services as required by Medicaid physician billing and telemedicine rules.

When billing for these services, you must include all appropriate modifiers on the claim. For parental consultation, please make note of the different modifiers per discipline.

**All therapy claims submitted for telemedicine must include the GT modifier and (02) as the place of service.**

To continue following Summit Community Care updates related to COVID-19, please utilize the following link:

<https://provider.summitcommunitycare.com/arkansas-provider/covid-19-updates>.