



May 10, 2016

Dear colleague,

As you may know, a CPT® coding structure to report adaptive behavior assessment and treatment services to health insurance plans became effective July 1, 2014. This includes fifteen new Category III codes: 0359T, 0360T, 0361T, 0362T, 0364T, 0365T, 0366T, 0367T, 0368T, 0369T, 0370T, 0371T, 0372T, 0373T, and 0374T. About a year ago, a workgroup was formed to collect information about utilization of that code set for reporting applied behavior analysis (ABA) services in preparation for submitting a Code Change Proposal to the American Medical Association CPT Editorial Panel. The workgroup comprises representatives of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA), Autism Speaks, and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), as well as providers and health plans. Input is also being sought from other stakeholder societies, which includes specialties such as speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, pediatrics, and others.

Our workgroup has learned that some payers are utilizing a blend of HCPCS codes with the new Category III CPT codes for reporting ABA services, while others are not utilizing the Category III codes at all. Over the past year, feedback from payers and providers across the country indicated that crosswalk information would be extremely useful for achieving consistency in utilization and implementation of -- and ultimately in establishing valuation and reimbursement rates for -- the new codes. Accordingly, we have prepared the attached crosswalk chart. It indicates the most common HCPCS and CPT codes that have been or are being utilized by payers to report ABA services. It is organized by the essential elements of ABA services, as indicated by the BACB. Those services include assessment and reassessment, treatment plan development and revision, direct treatment of individual clients, supervision or direction of technicians by a professional behavior analyst or other Qualified Healthcare Professional (QHCP), family or caregiver training, and group treatment. The crosswalk chart also indicates which personnel must attend each service to report the new CPT codes, as well as applicable time increments.

We hope the crosswalk information will foster a greater understanding of how the Category III codes were intended to be reported and encourage uniform reporting of ABA services across providers, payers, and states. If you have comments or questions or need additional information, please contact Jenna Minton at mintonhealthcarestrategies@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Association for Behavior Analysis International
Association of Professional Behavior Analysts
Autism Speaks
Behavior Analyst Certification Board

Applied Behavior Analysis CPT Coding Crosswalk Guide

	Essential Elements of Applied Behavior Analysis Services ¹	General Description	Pre-existing Codes		Category III CPT® Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services				
			HCPCS or CPT Code(s)	Time/Units	Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By	
Assessment Codes	Development of individualized treatment plan by supervising behavior analyst/QHCP. ² Assessment may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of file information about client's medical status, prior assessments, prior treatments; • stakeholder interviews and rating scales; • review of assessments by other professionals; • direct observation and measurement of client behavior in structured and unstructured situations; • determination of baseline levels of adaptive and maladaptive behaviors; • functional behavior analysis. 	Assessment for treatment plan development	H0031 96150	per encounter or per 15 min (varies by payer)	Behavior identification assessment by the physician or other qualified health care professional, face-to-face with patient and caregiver(s). Includes administration of standardized and non-standardized tests, detailed behavioral history, patient observation and caregiver interview, interpretation of test results, discussion of findings and recommendations with the primary guardian(s)/caregiver(s), and preparation of report	0359T	untimed	client, QHCP ²	
					Observational behavioral follow-up assessment. Includes physician or other qualified health care professional direction with interpretation and report, administered by one technician; first 30 minutes of technician time, face-to-face with the patient	0360T	first 30 min	client, technician (QHCP ² may substitute for technician)	
			Observational behavioral follow-up assessment. Includes physician or other qualified health care professional direction with interpretation and report, administered by one technician; each additional 30 minutes of technician time, face-to-face with the patient (list separately in addition to code for primary service)	0361T	each additional 30 min	client, technician (QHCP ² may substitute for technician)			
				G8539 96151	untimed				
				Some payers accept H2019 H2020					
				Functional behavior assessment and/or functional behavior analysis, behaviors and settings other than those covered by 0362T and 0363T					
		Functional analysis of severe maladaptive behaviors in specialized settings	Some payers accept H2019 H2020 90899 S9480 99499						

Modifiers commonly used with these codes include HQ/HP for the behavior analyst/QHCP² and HM/HN for the technician. Other modifiers vary by state and/or payer.

1. Source: Behavior Analyst Certification Board (2014). *Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Managers*. Littleton, CO: Author. Available at <http://bacb.com/asd-practice-document/>

2. QHCP = Qualified Health Care Professional: Licensed Behavior Analyst, Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst, Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst, or other credentialed professional whose scope of practice, training, and competence includes applied behavior analysis.

3. QHCP provides direction and is physically available, but need not participate in the session.

	Essential Elements of Applied Behavior Analysis Services ¹	General Description	Category III CPT® Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services					
			HCPCS or CPT Code(s)	Time/Units	Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By
Indirect Services by QHCP	Treatment plan development includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> selection of treatment targets in collaboration with family members and other stakeholders development of written protocols for treating and measuring all treatment targets 	Treatment planning by QHCP²	H0032	per encounter	Bundled with other assessment and treatment services			
		Supervision of technicians by QHCP²	H0032 S5108 G9012 96152	per encounter	Direction of technician by QHCP,² bundled with services above and below			
				per 15 min				
				untimed				
per 15 min								
Treatment Codes	Implementation and management of treatment plan by supervising behavior analyst/QHCP; ² may be assisted by credentialed assistant behavior analyst(s). Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training technicians to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) carry out treatment protocols accurately, frequently, and consistently; (b) record data on treatment targets; (c) record notes; (d) summarize and graph data. Training family members and other caregivers to implement selected aspects of treatment plan. Ongoing supervision of technician and caregiver implementation. Ongoing, frequent review and analysis of direct observational data on treatment targets. Modification of treatment targets and protocols based on data. Training technicians, family members, and other caregivers to implement revised protocols. 	Direct treatment	H2019	per 15 min	Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol administered by technician, face-to-face with one patient; first 30 minutes of technician time	0364T	first 30 min	client, technician (QHCP ² may substitute for technician)
					Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol , each additional 30 minutes of technician time (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	0365T	each additional 30 min	client, technician (QHCP ² may substitute for technician)
		Direct treatment of severe maladaptive behavior in specialized, high-intensity settings	H2019 H2020 90899 S9480 99499	per diem, per 15 min, untimed	Exposure adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification requiring two or more technicians for severe maladaptive behavior(s); first 60 minutes of technicians' time, face-to-face with patient	0373T	first 60 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHCP ² on site ³
					Exposure adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification requiring two or more technicians for severe maladaptive behavior(s); each additional 30 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with patient (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	0374T	each additional 30 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHCP ² on site ³
		Direct treatment by QHCP²	H2012 H2019 96152 96153 96154 96155	per hour	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by physician or other qualified health care professional with one patient; first 30 minutes of patient face-to-face time	0368T	first 30 min	client, QHCP, ² may include technician and/or caregiver
					Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by physician or other qualified health care professional with one patient; each additional 30 minutes of patient face-to-face time (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	0369T	each additional 30 min	client, QHCP, ² may include technician and/or caregiver
		Group treatment	H2014	per 15 min	Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol administered by technician, face-to-face with two or more patients; first 30 minutes of technician time	0366T	first 30 min	2 or more clients, technician (QHCP ² may substitute for technician)
					Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol , each additional 30 minutes of technician time (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	0367T	each additional 30 min	2 or more clients, technician (QHCP ² may substitute for technician)
			H2020	per diem	Adaptive behavior treatment social skills group administered by physician or other qualified health care professional face-to-face with multiple patients	0372T	untimed	2 or more clients and QHCP ²
		Family training	S5110	per 15 min	Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance administered by physician or other qualified health care professional (without the patient present)	0370T	untimed	caregiver and QHCP ²
			S5111	per encounter	Multiple-family group adaptive behavior treatment guidance administered by physician or other qualified health care professional (without the patient present)	0371T	untimed	caregivers of 2 or more clients and QHCP ²

Modifiers commonly used with these codes include HQ/HP for the behavior analyst/QHCP² and HM/HN for the technician. Other modifiers vary by state and/or payer.

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