

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Issue Date: July 3, 1997

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)\(3\)\(x\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

97003 - 97004, **97532, 97533**, 97535, 97799

II. DESCRIPTION

Occupational therapy is the prescribed use of specific purposeful activity or interventions designed to promote health, prevent injury or disability, and which develop, improve, sustain, or restore functions which have been lost or reduced as a result of injury, illness, cognitive impairment, psychosocial dysfunction, mental illness, or developmental, learning or physical disability(ies), to the highest possible level for independent functioning.

III. POLICY

Occupational therapy prescribed and supervised by a physician is covered.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. The following occupational therapy services are not covered:

1. Vocational assessment and training.
2. General exercise programs.
3. Separate charges for instruction of the patient and family in therapy procedures.
4. Repetitive exercise to improve gait, maintain strength and endurance, and assisted walking such as that provided in support of feeble or unstable patients.
5. Range of motion and passive exercises which are not related to restoration of a specific loss of function.

6. CPT code 97532 or CPT code 97533 is not a covered benefit when used as a restorative approach. That is, cognitive function improves as a result of neuronal growth, which is enhanced through the repetitive exercise of neuronal circuits and that recovery of functions is determined by biological events. This policy does not exclude multidisciplinary

services, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy after traumatic brain injury and stroke. In addition, CPT codes 97532 and 97533 for sensory integration training is excluded. Likewise, this policy does not exclude multidisciplinary services, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy for children with an autistic disorder.

B. Occupational therapists are not authorized to bill using Evaluation and Management (E & M) codes listed in the Physicians' Current Procedural Terminology.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE October 28, 1997.

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