

Physical Therapy Quick-Reference for Telemedicine

There are two Payment Policies that provide coverage for specific PT services to be provided by telemedicine:

- CPP_03- BCBSVT Telemedicine Payment Policy
- CPP_27- BCBSVT Corporate Payment Policy 27 (Temporary/Emergency): Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy Services by Telemedicine

NOTE: Both policies allow for eligible PT services to be provided to New and Existing Patients.

The grid below combines all the services that are eligible via telemedicine when the requirements of the applicable policy is met:

Type	Code	Code Description	Audio/Visual	Policy
CPT®	97110	Therapeutic procedure, 1 or more areas, strength, endurance, ROM, flexibility- each 15 mins	X	CPP_03
CPT®	97112	Therapeutic procedure, 1 or more areas, movement, balance, coordination, posture- each 15 mins	X	CPP_03
CPT®	97116	Therapeutic procedure, 1 or more areas, gait training- each 15 mins	X	CPP_03,
CPT®	97161	PT evaluation 20 mins	X	CPP_27
CPT®	97162	PT evaluation 30 mins	X	CPP_27
CPT®	97163	PT evaluation 45 mins	X	CPP_27
CPT®	97164	PT re-evaluation, 20 mins	X	CPP_27
CPT®	97530	Therapeutic activities, direct pt. contact, each 15 minutes	X	CPP_03
CPT®	97535	Self- Care mgmt. / Home mgmt. each 15 minutes	X	CPP_27

Reminders:

- Services are to be billed:
 - CMS 1500 professional claims - with a place of service 02 and modifier 95
 - UB 04 facility claims – do not change billing – bill as if the services had been provided in person. Medical records should reflect services were done via telemedicine
- Members are responsible for their usual liabilities (deductibles, coinsurance, copay) services provided via telemedicine
- Member services are applied to their PT/OT/ST benefit maximums

- The reimbursement for telemedicine services is the same as when services are provided in an office setting
- Physical Therapy Assistants are also eligible to provide the services defined in the payment policy for telemedicine and the temporary/emergency policy for PT/OT/ST telemedicine if the PTA requirements are met per our on-line provider handbook:

Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)

PTAs are expected to practice within the scope of their license. Their services must be directly supervised by a Physical Therapist. The supervising physical therapist needs to be in the same building and available to the PTA at the time patient care is given. Medical notes must be signed off by the supervising therapist. Claims for PTA services must be submitted under the supervising Physical Therapist's rendering national provider identifier.

- We encourage providers to use HIPAA-compliant platforms when available, but we will not be enforcing HIPAA requirements during the national state of emergency. Below is a link for details about HIPAA compliance:
<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html>