

7.17. Occupational Therapy Services

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES

Principles for Medical Necessity Criteria

Occupational therapy involves a performance-based assessment and services relating to participant's functioning in activities of daily living, cognitive skills, sensory-motor skills, and psycho-social skills. The goal of occupational therapy is to maximize the participant's functional independence.

- Occupational therapy performed in an inpatient unit by a hospital-based partial hospitalization program, or a hospital-based outpatient program, is provided as medically necessary, and does not require authorization by Beacon.
- Occupational therapy services are not included in the daily rate for private psychiatric hospitals (Institutes of Mental Disease). Consequently, occupational therapy services provided in private psychiatric hospitals must be billed by a professional or professional group.
- Occupational therapy performed in an outpatient setting requires authorization by Beacon and is subject to medical necessity criteria.

When participants have a mental disorder that require professional evaluation and treatment, they should be treated in the least intensive setting able to meet their medical needs.

Satisfaction of all admission and continued care criteria must be documented in the clinical record based upon the conditions and factors identified below before treatment will be authorized.

Claims Rules

- Claims for occupational therapy services must be submitted on a CMS 1500 form in units of 15-minute increments. The exception is CPT Code 97150, Therapeutic Procedures, Group, which is billed per group attendee as a session.
- Claims must specify ICD 10 codes, not DSM 5 codes.

CRITERIA

Admission Criteria	<p>All of the following criteria are necessary for admission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The participant either has Medicaid, is PBHS-eligible Medicare, or uninsured eligible. The participant has a PBHS specialty mental health DSM 5 diagnosis. B. The eligible participant has a co-morbid medical condition which requires, and is likely to respond to, outpatient occupational therapy services. C. The service is provided by an occupational therapist actively licensed by the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice and demonstrates by training and experience the competency to provide
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	<p>occupational therapy to participants with mental illness, who also have a signed provider agreement with DHMH.</p>
<p>Severity of Need and Intensity of Service</p>	<p>Occupational therapy may be needed in any service setting in conjunction with other treatment modalities. The severity determination is made in an integrated fashion between the properly licensed and experienced occupational therapist and Beacon. Length of treatment will vary depending on clinical status and is subject to medical necessity review.</p>
<p>Criteria for Continued Stay</p>	<p>Both of the following criteria are necessary for continuing treatment at this level of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The participant continues to meet admission criteria and continues to be treated in an outpatient setting. B. Progress in relation to specific symptoms/impairments/dysfunction is clearly evident and can be described in objective terms, but goals of treatment have not been achieved or adjustments in the treatment plan to address the lack of progress are evident.