

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy

Scope

This policy applies to:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid |
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Policy

Original Effective Date: 01/01/2019

When benefits allow, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will reimburse for ABA Therapy services when all clinical criteria are met and claim is submitted with appropriate coding.

ABA Therapy is limited to 40 hours per week.

Non-Medical, ancillary activities such as travel or team meetings are not direct patient care services, are not part of Adaptive and Behavioral Assessment and Treatment codes and will not be covered.

[Telemedicine](#) and [Virtual Care](#) services are allowed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All claims must still be billed according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines.

Billing/Coding Guidelines

ABA Therapy services will be reimbursed when submitted with the appropriate Category I/III CPT® Codes or specific HCPCS code for ABA Therapy services.

All claims must be billed according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines and must indicate the supervising or licensed provider in box 31 of the CMS claim form.

The following codes will be recognized for reimbursement when billing ABA Therapy:

ABA Reimbursable Services	
2019 Category I/III CPT® Codes	Description
97151	Behavior identification assessment, administered by a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, each 15 minutes of the physician's or other qualified healthcare professional's time face-to-face with patient and/or guardian(s)/caregiver(s) administering assessments and discussing

	findings and recommendations, and non-face-to-face analyzing past data, scoring/interpreting the assessment, and preparing the report/treatment plan
97152	Behavior identification supporting assessment, administered by one technician under the direction of a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes
97153	Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under the direction of a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes
97154	Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician under the direction of a physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with two or more patients, each 15 minutes
97155	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional, which may include simultaneous direction of technician, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes
97156	Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional (with or without the patient present), face-to-face with guardian(s)/caregiver(s), each 15 minutes
97157	Multiple-family group adaptive behavior treatment guidance, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional (without the patient present), face-to-face with multiple sets of guardians/caregivers, each 15 minutes
97158	Group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with multiple patients, each 15 minutes

Policy Definitions

Not applicable

Prerequisite(s)

All Kaiser Permanente clinical criteria have been met.

References

[Clinical Review Criteria - Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy \(ABA\)](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q1:** Will Kaiser Permanente reimburse for ABA therapy services when billed with HCPCS codes H2000-H2037 are billed?
- A1:** No. Kaiser Permanente will only reimburse Category I/III CPT codes listed above for ABA Therapy services.
- Q2:** Why does Kaiser Permanente only reimburse the Category I/III CPT codes (listed above) for ABA Therapy services?
- A2:** Kaiser Permanente follows industry standard coding for ABA Therapy in accordance with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as well as other providers and health plans.
- Q3:** Why does Kaiser Permanente limit the number of ABA Therapy hours to 40 reimbursable hours per week?
- A3:** Kaiser Permanente limits the number of hours of ABA Therapy to ensure the patient is improving from the therapy received.

Revision History

05/24/2022 – Updated formatting

07/02/2021 – Removed codes 0362T, H2017, 0373T

Note: This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, we may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. Further, the policy does not cover all issues related to reimbursement for services rendered to our enrollees as legislative mandates, the provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents, and the Provider Manual all may supplement or in some cases supersede this policy. This policy may be modified from time to time by publishing a new version of the policy on Kaiser Permanente provider website; however, the information presented in this policy is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication.