

**November 26, 2014**

# **Montana Health Care Programs Notice**

**Psychologists, Social Workers, Licensed Clinical Professional  
Counselors, Mental Health Centers, and Psychiatrists**

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## **Billing and Code Clarification for Individual and Family Therapy on the Same Day**

The following is intended to provide clarification of the new CMS regulation dated January 1, 2013, and the new coding edits by CMS effective October 1, 2014. See [National Correct Coding Initiative Edits](#).

“Individual psychotherapy and group psychotherapy may be reported on the same date of service if the two services are performed during separate time intervals. Family psychotherapy (i.e., CPT codes 90846, 90847) is not separately reportable with psychotherapy CPT codes 90832—90838 for the same patient encounter since the latter codes include psychotherapy with family members.”

Taken from the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual, Revised January 1, 2013, page XI-9:

### **C. Psychiatric Services**

The CPT codes for psychiatric services include diagnostic (CPT codes 90791, 90792) and therapeutic (individual, group, or other) procedures. Since psychotherapy includes continuing psychiatric evaluation, CPT codes 90791 and 90792 are not separately reportable with individual psychotherapy codes. The CPT codes 90791 or 90792 are separately reportable with a group psychotherapy code if the diagnostic interview and group psychotherapy service occur during separate time intervals on the same date of service. Diagnostic services performed during the group therapy session are not separately reportable.

Interactive services (diagnostic or therapeutic) are distinct services for patients who have “lost, or have not yet developed either the expressive language communication skills to explain his/her symptoms and response to treatment.” Interactive complexity to psychiatric services is reported with add-on CPT code 90785.

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Diagnostic psychiatric evaluation is reported with one of two CPT codes. CPT code 90791 is psychiatric evaluation without medical evaluation and management (E&M), and CPT code 90792 is psychiatric evaluation with medical E&M. E&M codes (e.g., 9920---99215) should not be reported

with either of these diagnostic psychiatric codes.

Individual psychotherapy codes are time based codes. There are separate codes for psychotherapy without E&M services (CPT codes 90832, 90834, and 90837) and add-on codes (CPT codes 90833, 90836, and 90838) for psychotherapy to be reported in conjunction with the appropriate E&M code.

Changes to editing on therapy codes became effective October 1, 2014. Verisk Health provided the graph below demonstrating new CCI edits for individual and family therapy codes:

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Deletion Date</b>	<b>Modifier Indicator</b> <b>0=not allowed</b> <b>1= allowed</b> <b>9= not applicable</b>
90846	90837	20141001		1
90847	90837	20141001		0
90849	90837	20141001		1

More information about NCCI is available at:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/01\\_overview.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/01_overview.asp#TopOfPage)

## Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact Sally Tilleman at Children's Mental Health Bureau, at [STilleman2@mt.gov](mailto:STilleman2@mt.gov) or 406-444-6962.

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations at 1-800-624-3958 (toll-free, in/out of state) or 406-442-1837 (Helena) or via e-mail at [MTPRHelpdesk@xerox.com](mailto:MTPRHelpdesk@xerox.com).

Visit the Montana Medicaid Provider Information website at <http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov>.