

Autism Services Billing Codes

Introduction

We want Caregivers to feel informed and confident about their child's therapy services — including how billing works. Below is a brief overview of the most common autism therapy billing codes that we use, so you know what to expect and how each type of service supports your child's care.

Applied Behavior Analysis

97151 – ABA Initial Assessment and Treatment Planning

This treatment code is used when the supervising Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) meets with the caregiver(s) and the child to conduct an initial assessment. The assessment includes reviewing records, conducting interviews, direct observation, standard testing, and creating an individualized treatment plan. The BCBA normally spends one hour (sometimes two) with the child face-to-face, and then up to seven additional hours performing the other tasks. Please note that:

- Insurance companies only allow up to two hours a day to be spent on this code at a time – therefore, this work is performed over multiple days and may result in multiple copayments assessed by insurance.
- This code is billed at the initial start of services and again for reassessments, as required by insurance - typically every six (6) months.

97153 – ABA Therapy

This is the direct behavior therapy the child receives, typically from a Behavior Technician (BT) following the BCBA's treatment plan. This involves skill-building, behavior reduction, and real-time practice of goals.

97155 – ABA Protocol Modification (Supervision)

This code covers time when the BCBA oversees direct therapy with the child - modeling programs, adjusting techniques, or addressing complex behaviors. This code is billed periodically to ensure quality care and treatment progress. Although the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) requires that a minimum of 10% of ABA therapy is supervised by the BCBA, Bridges strives for up to 20% to improve quality and outcomes.

97156 – ABA Parent Training (Family Guidance)

This code is used when the BCBA meets with caregiver(s), often without the child being present, and may be conducted in person at the clinic or via telehealth. The session focuses on teaching caregiver(s) how to support the child's goals at home, manage behavior, and reinforce positive skills. Initially parent training sessions are conducted weekly but may be tapered off and scheduled less often (one or two times per month).

Occupational Therapy

97110 - Occupational Therapeutic Exercise

This code covers therapeutic exercises designed to develop strength, endurance, range of motion, and flexibility in one or more areas of the body.

97112 - Occupational Neuromuscular Re-Education

This code represents neuromuscular reeducation, focusing on improving balance, coordination, kinesthetic sense, and posture through activities that retrain the brain and body connection.

97166/97167 - Occupational Therapy Evaluation

This code is used when an Occupational Therapist completes an initial evaluation of a child's functional skills, sensory needs, and daily living abilities.

- 97166: Moderate complexity (multiple performance deficits, detailed assessment).
- 97167: High complexity (multiple deficits, comorbidities, in-depth assessment and reasoning).

97168 - Occupational Therapy Re-evaluation

This CPT code is used when an Occupational Therapist performs a reevaluation of a child who has already been evaluated previously, when a significant change in the child's status or a formal update to the treatment plan is needed. It involves reviewing progress toward goals from the initial evaluation, assessing changes in function, abilities, or needs, and updating the treatment plan as appropriate.

97530 - Occupational Therapy, Individual

This code covers structured, goal-directed activities (often play-based for children) designed to improve functional performance, motor planning, coordination, and independence in everyday skills.

97535 - Occupational Therapeutic Exercise

This code involves training in Self-Care/Home Management, where a therapist teaches a patient how to perform activities of daily living (ADLs), use assistive devices, or manage their safety at home

Speech Therapy

92523 - Speech Therapy Evaluation

This code is used when a Speech-Language Pathologist evaluates a child's speech sound production and language abilities (both receptive and expressive).

92507 - Speech Therapy, Individual

This code covers individual speech therapy sessions that target communication skills, such as articulation, language, fluency, or voice.

92526 – Swallowing/Feeding

This code covers treatment of swallowing dysfunction or oral function for feeding, used by clinicians to help patients improve their ability to eat and drink safely.

92609 - Use of Speech Generating Device

The code is used when a Speech Language Pathologist provides therapy or training to help a client learn to use an augmentative or alternative communication (AAC) device, like a speech-generating tablet or system.

Other CPT Codes

The above are the most common autism therapy billing codes that we may use. However, this is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of codes, and other services covered under less common codes may be used by our providers and billed as necessary to perform treatment.