

BILLING CPT 97530 – THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

ALS INTEGRATED SERVICES – SIMPLIFYING WHAT MATTERS MOST

OVERVIEW OF CPT 97530

- CPT Code: 97530
- Therapeutic activities, direct (one-on-one) patient contact
- Each 15 minutes
- Focus: Functional, task-oriented activities

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Show medical necessity (goal-directed, functional)
- Patient actively participates
- Specifics of activity performed
- Duration (must meet 8-minute rule)
- Functional outcomes achieved

BILLING GUIDELINES

- Time-based code: 15 min = 1 unit (8-minute rule applies)
- One-on-one only (not group)
- Separate from exercise (97110)
- Modifiers: 59/X if unbundling, GP when required

EXAMPLES OF 97530 ACTIVITIES

- Lifting/carrying objects
- Bed mobility & transfers
- Stair climbing
- Sit-to-stand training
- Functional reaching, bending, balance
- Community reintegration (e.g., grocery tasks)

RED FLAGS – AVOID ERRORS

- Vague documentation ('therapeutic activities performed')
- Using 97530 for general strengthening (97110 instead)
- Overlapping time with another code
- Not linking activity to functional goals

8-MINUTE RULE REFERENCE

- 8–22 min = 1 unit
- 23–37 min = 2 units
- 38–52 min = 3 units
- 53–67 min = 4 units (and so on)

COMMON PT CODES BILLED WITH 97530

- 97110 – Therapeutic Exercise
- 97112 – Neuromuscular Re-education
- 97140 – Manual Therapy Techniques
- 97014/G0283 – Electrical Stimulation
- 97535 – Self-Care/Home Management Training

97530 VS 97110

- 97530 – Therapeutic Activities:
 - Functional, dynamic, task-oriented
 - Improves ability for ADLs & mobility
 - Examples: transfers, stair climbing, sit-to-stand
- 97110 – Therapeutic Exercise:
 - Strength, endurance, ROM, flexibility
 - Repetitive exercises not tied to function
 - Examples: resistance band, stretching, core exercises
- Quick Rule of Thumb:
 - 97110 = Exercise-based (muscles/joints)
 - 97530 = Functional-based (real-life use)

SIMPLIFYING WHAT MATTERS MOST

ALS INTEGRATED SERVICES

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