



October 19, 2018

Dear colleague,

In September the Steering Committee for the national workgroup comprising representatives of the organizations shown above distributed a code conversion table showing the most common HCPCS and 2014 Category III CPT codes that have been used to report applied behavior analysis (ABA) services to health plans, cross-referenced to the 8 new Category I and 2 modified Category III CPT codes that will go into effect January 1, 2019. Based on questions and feedback from many providers and payors, we have revised the code conversion table to clarify several points of confusion. Changes are as follows:

- The date of the revision is shown in the upper right corner of the table.
- The footnote defining QHP has been revised to be consistent with the American Medical Association (AMA) and Centers for Medicare & Medical Services (CMS) definition of Qualified Healthcare Provider: “A ‘physician or other qualified health care professional’ is an individual who is qualified by education, training, licensure/regulation (when applicable) and facility privileging (when applicable) who performs a professional service within his/her scope of practice and independently reports that professional service.” *Note that decisions as to who can serve as a QHP for reporting the new CPT codes will be based on each state’s licensure laws (where applicable) and/or health insurance laws and regulations.*
- A note has been added (page 1, lower right corner) to indicate that new CPT codes 97153 (adaptive behavior treatment by protocol administered by technician) and 97155 (adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by QHP, which may include simultaneous direction of technician) may be reported concurrently as long as the requirements encompassed in the descriptors for both codes are met and the providers performing the services are not the same individuals.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind providers how important it is to **obtain complete and accurate information about the new CPT codes**. Although we certainly hope the code conversion table will be helpful, it is essential that you obtain and digest additional resources to ensure compliance with AMA coding and reimbursement rules and guidelines. **Those resources include the 2019 CPT® code book and the forthcoming CPT® Assistant article, which will be published later this fall.** They can be purchased from the AMA store, <https://commerce.ama-assn.org/store/>. Our Steering Committee is also preparing materials to help providers and payors implement the new codes. One of those resources is this set of [suggestions](#) to help providers prepare for implementation of the new codes. Watch for emails announcing the availability of additional resources.

If you have comments or questions or need additional information, please contact our CPT coding consultant Jenna Minton, Esq. at mintonhealthcarestrategies@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Travis Thompson, Association for Behavior Analysis International
Gina Green, Association of Professional Behavior Analysts

James E. Carr, Behavior Analyst Certification Board

Lorri Unumb, Autism Speaks

Jenna W. Minton, Minton Healthcare Strategies (CPT Consultant)

Adaptive Behavior Assessment and Treatment Code Conversion Table

	Essential Elements of Applied Behavior Analysis Services ¹	General Description	HCPCS Code(s) ²	2014 Category III CPT® Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services			2019 Category I / III CPT® Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services				
				Descriptor	Code	Time/ Units	Attended By	Descriptor	Code	Time/ Units	Attended By
Assessment Codes	<p>Development of individualized treatment plan by supervising behavior analyst/QHP.³</p> <p>Assessment may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review of file information about client's medical status, prior assessments, prior treatments; stakeholder interviews and rating scales; review of assessments by other professionals; direct observation and measurement of client behavior in structured and unstructured situations; determination of baseline levels of adaptive and maladaptive behaviors; functional behavior analysis. 	Assessment for treatment plan development	H0031, H0032, 96150, 96151, 68539	Behavior identification assessment by the physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with patient and caregiver(s). Includes administration of standardized and non-standardized tests, detailed behavioral history, patient observation and caregiver interview, interpretation of test results, discussion of findings and recommendations with the primary guardian(s)/caregiver(s), and preparation of report.	0359T	untimed	client, QHP ³	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.	97151	per 15 min	client, QHP ³
				Observational behavioral follow-up assessment. Includes physician or other qualified healthcare professional direction with interpretation and report, administered by one technician; first 30 minutes of technician time, face-to-face with the patient.	0360T	first 30 min	client, technician (QHP ³ may substitute for the technician)	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 minute.	97152	per 15 min	client, technician (QHP ³ may substitute for the technician)
				Observational behavioral follow-up assessment, each additional 30 minutes of technician time, face-to-face with the patient (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).	0361T	each add'l 30 min	client, technician (QHP ³ may substitute for the technician)				
		Functional analysis of severe maladaptive behaviors in specialized settings	Some payers accept H2019, H2020, 90899, S9480, 99499	Exposure behavioral follow-up assessment. Includes physician or other qualified healthcare professional direction with interpretation and report, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional with the assistance of one or more technicians; first 30 minutes of technician(s) time, face-to-face with the patient.	0362T	first 30 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHP ³	Behavior identification supporting assessment, each 15 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components:	0362T	per 15 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHP ³
Exposure behavioral follow-up assessment, each additional 30 minutes of technician(s) time, face-to-face with the patient (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).	0363T			each add'l 30 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHP ³						
Indirect Services by QHP ³	Treatment plan development. Includes:	Treatment planning by QHP ³	H0032	Bundled with services above and below.			Bundled with services above and below.				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> selection of treatment targets in collaboration with family members and other stakeholders development of written protocols for treating and measuring all treatment targets 	Direction of technicians by QHP ³	H0032, S5108, 69012, 96152	Direction of technician by QHP ³			<p>If QHP³ is directing the technician without the client present this is a bundled service and is captured by the codes above and below.</p> <p>If the QHP³ is directing a technician or caregiver with the client present, report using the 97155 code below.</p> <p>97155 may be reported concurrently with technician delivered services 97153 when the patient is present, one or more protocols have been modified, and the QHP is directing the technician.</p>				

Modifiers commonly used with these codes include HO/HP for the supervising behavior analyst/QHP³ and HM/HN for the technician. Other modifiers vary by state and/or payer.

¹ Source: Behavior Analyst Certification Board (2014). *Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Managers*. Littleton, CO: Author. Available at <http://bacb.com/asd-practice-document/>

² All payers utilized some combination of HCPCS codes prior to the development of the Category III CPT® code set to report ABA services. Some payers continue to use HCPCS codes for this purpose.

³ QHP = Qualified Healthcare Professional: Licensed Behavior Analyst, Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Psychologist or other credentialed professional whose scope of practice, training, and competence includes applied behavior analysis.

⁴ "On site" is defined as immediately available and interruptible to provide assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure; however, the physician or other qualified healthcare professional does not need to be present in the room when the procedure is performed.

	Essential Elements of Applied Behavior Analysis Services ¹	General Description	HCPCS Code(s) ²	2014 Category III CPT® Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services			2019 Category I / III CPT® Codes for Adaptive Behavior Services				
				Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By	Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By
Treatment Codes	<p>Implementation and management of treatment plan by supervising behavior analyst/QHP³.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training technicians to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> carry out treatment protocols accurately, frequently, and consistently; record data on treatment targets; record notes; summarize and graph data. Training family members and other caregivers to implement selected aspects of treatment plan. Ongoing supervision of technician and caregiver implementation. Ongoing, frequent review and analysis of direct observational data on treatment targets. Modification of treatment targets and protocols based on data. Training technicians, family members, and other caregivers to implement revised protocols. 	Direct treatment	H2019	Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol administered by technician, face-to-face with one patient; first 30 minutes of technician time.	0364T	first 30 min	client, technician <i>(QHP³ may substitute for the technician)</i>	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.	97153	per 15 min	client, technician <i>(QHP³ may substitute for the technician)</i>
				Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, each additional 30 minutes of technician time <i>(list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).</i>	0365T	each add'l 30 min	client, technician <i>(QHP³ may substitute for the technician)</i>				
		Direct treatment of severe maladaptive behavior in specialized settings	H2019, H2020, 90899, 9480, 99499	Exposure adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification requiring two or more technicians for severe maladaptive behavior(s); first 60 minutes of technicians' time, face-to-face with patient.	0373T	first 60 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHP ³ on site	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, each 15 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> administered by the physician or other qualified healthcare professional who is on site⁴; with the assistance of two or more technicians; for a patient who exhibits destructive behavior; completed in an environment that is customized, to the patient's behavior. 	0373T	per 15 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHP ³ on site
				Exposure adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification requiring two or more technicians for severe maladaptive behavior(s); each additional 30 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with patient <i>(list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).</i>	0374T	each add'l 30 min	client and 2 or more technicians; QHP ³ on site				
		Direct treatment by QHP³	H2012, H2019, 96152-96155	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional with one patient; first 30 minutes of patient face-to-face time.	0368T	first 30 min	client, QHP ³ ; may include technician and/or caregiver	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.	97155	per 15 min	client, QHP ³ ; may include technician and/or caregiver
				Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional with one patient; each additional 30 minutes of patient face-to-face time <i>(list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).</i>	0369T	each add'l 30 min	client, QHP ³ ; may include technician and/or caregiver				
		Group treatment	H2014, H2020	Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol administered by technician, face-to-face with two or more patients; first 30 minutes of technician time.	0366T	first 30 min	2 or more clients, technician <i>(QHP³ may substitute for the technician)</i>	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.	97154	per 15 min	2 or more clients, technician <i>(QHP³ may substitute for the technician)</i>
				Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, each additional 30 minutes of technician time <i>(list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).</i>	0367T	each add'l 30 min	2 or more clients, technician <i>(QHP³ may substitute for the technician)</i>				
				Adaptive behavior treatment social skills group administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional face-to-face with multiple patients.	0372T	untimed	2 or more clients and QHP ³				
		Family training	S5110	Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional <i>(without the patient present)</i> .	0370T	untimed	caregiver and QHP ³	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.	97156	per 15 min	caregiver and QHP ³
S5111	Multiple-family group adaptive behavior treatment guidance administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional <i>(without the patient present)</i> .		0371T	untimed	caregivers of 2 or more clients and QHP ³	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.	97157	per 15 min	caregivers of 2 or more clients and QHP ³		

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