

n05727

Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Assistant**Values**

Accountability • Integrity • Service Excellence • Innovation • Collaboration

Abstract Purpose:

This policy outlines Network Health's procedure, for all lines of business, when professional services are performed by a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) or an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA).

Policy Detail:

Aligning with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Network Health requires services performed in whole or in part by a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) or an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) be billed by the supervising therapist with the corresponding modifier. Reimbursement will be made at eighty-five percent (85%) of the contract rate for the service(s) containing the PTA or OTA modifier(s).

PTAs/OTAs are defined by time exceeding a *de minimis* threshold:

- PTA/OTA independently provides a service, or a 15-minute unit of service, without the supervising PT/OT therapist furnishing any part of that same service
- When the PTA/OTA furnishes 8 minutes or more of the final 15-minute unit of service, when the supervising PT/OT therapist furnishes 8 minutes or less of the same service
- When both the PTA/OTA and the PT/OT each furnish less than 8 minutes for the final 15-minute unit of service (the 10 percent standard applies)
- Situations where the service is not defined in 15-minute units; including supervised modalities, evaluations/reevaluations, or group therapy

Commercial Billing Requirement:

- CQ Modifier – Physical Therapy Assistant
- CO Modifier – Occupational Therapy Assistant

Medicare Advantage Billing Requirement:

- CQ Modifier – Physical Therapy Assistant **and**
- GP Modifier – Physical Therapy Service
- CO Modifier – Occupational Therapy Assistant **and**
- GO Modifier – Occupational Therapy Service

Regulatory Citations:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Related Policies:

Physical and Occupational Therapy Services

Effective Date: 3/16/2022

Next Renewal Date: 3/16/2023