

n05727

Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Assistant

ValuesAccountability • Integrity • Service Excellence • Innovation • Collaboration

Abstract Purpose:

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

Policy Detail:

- I. 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).
- II. PTAs/OTAs are defined by time exceeding a *de minimis* threshold:
 - A. 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
 - B. 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
 - C. 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)
 - D. Situations where the service is not defined in 15-minute units; including supervised modalities, evaluations/reevaluations, or group therapy
- III. **Commercial Billing Requirement**
 - A. CQ Modifier – Physical Therapy Assistant
 - B. CO Modifier – Occupational Therapy Assistant
- IV. **Medicare Advantage Billing Requirement**
 - A. CQ Modifier – Physical Therapy Assistant **and**
 - B. GP Modifier – Physical Therapy Service
 - C. CO Modifier – Occupational Therapy Assistant **and**
 - D. GO Modifier – Occupational Therapy Service

Regulatory Citations:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Related Policies:

Physical and Occupational Therapy Services

Origination Date: 3/16/2022

Update Date: 3/11/2026

Next Review Date: 3/11/2027