

Level of Care VI: Occupational Therapy Services

I. Principles for Medical Necessity Criteria:

Occupational Therapy involves a performance-based assessment and services relating to consumer functioning in activities of daily living, cognitive skills, sensory-motor skills, and psycho-social skills. The goal of Occupational Therapy is to maximize the consumer's functional independence.

- Occupational Therapy performed in an inpatient unit by a hospital-based partial hospitalization program, or a hospital-based outpatient program, is provided as medically necessary, and *does not* require authorization by ValueOptions.
- Occupational Therapy Services are not included in the daily rate for private psychiatric hospitals (Institutes of Mental Disease/IMDs). Consequently, Occupational Therapy Services provided in private psychiatric hospitals must be billed by a professional or professional group.
- Occupational Therapy performed in an *outpatient* setting *does* require authorization by ValueOptions and is subject to medical necessity criteria.

Claims Rules

- Claims for Occupational Therapy Services must be submitted on a CMS 1500 form in units of 15 minute increments. The exception is CPT Code 97150, Therapeutic Procedures, Group, which is billed per group attendee as a session.
- Claims must specify ICD-9 codes, not DSM IV-TR codes.

II. Admission Criteria:	<p><i>All of the following criteria are necessary for admission:</i></p> <p>A. The consumer is included in a MA, PMHS-eligible Medicare, or Uninsured Eligible has a PMHS specialty mental health DSM-IV diagnosis.</p> <p>B. The eligible consumer has a co-morbid medical condition which requires, and is likely to respond to, outpatient occupational therapy services.</p> <p>C. The service is provided by an Occupational Therapist actively licensed by the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice and demonstrates by training and experience the competency to provide Occupational Therapy to consumers with mental illness, who also have a signed provider agreement with DHMH.</p>
III. Severity of Need and Intensity of Service	<p>Occupational therapy may be needed in any service setting in conjunction with other treatment modalities. The severity determination is made in an integrated fashion between the properly licensed and experienced occupational therapist and ValueOptions. Length of treatment will vary depending on clinical status and is subject to medical necessity review.</p>
IV. Continued Stay Criteria:	<p><i>Both of the following criteria are necessary for continuing treatment at this level of care:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The consumer continues to meet admission criteria and continues to be treated in an outpatient setting.B. Progress in relation to specific symptoms/impairments/dysfunction is clearly evident and can be described in objective terms, but goals of treatment have not been achieved or adjustments in the treatment plan to address the lack of progress are evident.
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