

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Questions: Teach Yourself How to Bill Team Therapy

Question: How should I report an occupational therapist (OT) and a physical therapist (PT) working together for 30 minutes with the same patient for transfer activities?

North Carolina Subscriber

Answer: According to Medicare, when a physical therapist and an occupational therapist both provide therapy services to one patient at the same time, only one therapist can report the entire service, or the PT and OT can divide the service units.

If you apply the section option to your situation, the PT would report one unit of 97530 (Therapeutic activities, direct [one-on-one] patient contact by the provider [use of dynamic activities to improve functional performance], each 15 minutes), and the OT would also report one unit of 97530. Otherwise, only one of the therapists could report two units of 97530.

Heads up: Similarly, this rule applies to two therapy assistants. They can either split the time or only one should report the entire service.

(Editor's Note: For a free time units chart, email me at suzannel@eliresearch.com)