



September 11, 2026

Dear Colleague,

The American Medical Association (AMA) has published new and modified CPT® Codes to report adaptive behavior services/ applied behavior analysis, which **take effect on January 1, 2027**. The changes include the addition of six new CPT codes and the revision of codes 97151-97158. Additionally, the AMA has accepted revised guidelines around usage of the code set and has permanently deleted the existing Category III T codes and replaced them with Category I CPT codes. The new code set resulted from a code change application (CCA) submitted to the AMA CPT Editorial Panel in 2025 by The ABA Coding Coalition (then composed of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA), Autism Speaks, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), the Council for Autism Service Providers (CASP), and their CPT consultants) and the ABAI ABA Billing Codes Commission (ABAIBCC). In preparing the code change application, the Coding Coalition and ABAIBCC collected information about utilization of the 2019 CPT code set (97151-97158, 0362T, 0372T) from health plans, providers, organizations, and other stakeholder societies. Our goal was to capture additional activities essential to quality ABA and to clarify existing code descriptors.

To assist payers and providers with implementation of the new code set and to facilitate consistency in utilization of the code set, we have prepared the attached coding conversion crosswalk that cross-references the 2019 CPT codes to the new 2027 CPT codes. The crosswalk is organized into three sections: 1) assessment codes, 2) non-face-to-face services, and 3) treatment codes. The crosswalk table also includes a general description of each code, a column to indicate the personnel required to bill for that service, and applicable time increments per unit of each CPT code. For each code, the crosswalk also indicates the personnel required to bill for that service, and applicable time increments per unit of each CPT code.

We developed this resource to facilitate an understanding of how the 2027 CPT codes are intended to be reported and to promote uniform reporting of ABA services across providers, payers, and states. Additional resources regarding the new code set (Supplemental Guidance Article, Model Coverage Policy, FAQs) can be found on the ABACC website at <https://abacodes.org/>. If you have comments, questions, or need additional information, please contact our CPT consultant, Jenna Minton, at jenna@proactivestrategies.net.

Sincerely,

ABA Coding Coalition

2027 Adaptive Behavior Assessment and Treatment Code Conversion Table

	General description	2019 Category I / III CPT® codes for adaptive behavior services				2027 Category I CPT® codes for adaptive behavior services			
		Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By	Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By
Assessment Codes	Assessment for treatment plan development	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 minutes	Client, QHP	Behavior identification assessment, administered by a physician or other QHP, each 15 minutes of the physician's or other QHP's time face-to-face with patient and/or caregiver(s) administering assessments and discussing findings and recommendations, and non-face-to-face analyzing past data, scoring and/or interpreting the assessment, and preparing the report and/or treatment plan	97151	Per 15 minutes	Face-to-face activities: Client and/or Caregiver, QHP Non-face-to-face: QHP
		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 minutes	97152	Per 15 minutes	Client, technician	Behavior identification supporting assessment, administered by technician face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes	97152	Per 15 minutes	Client, technician
	Functional analysis of harmful behaviors in customized settings	Behavior identification supporting assessment, each 15 minutes of technicians' time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components: - administered by the physician or other qualified healthcare professional who is on site; - 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.	0362T	Per 15 minutes	Client, 2 or more technicians, QHP on-site	Behavior identification supporting assessment of harmful behavior, each 15 minutes of technician time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components: - delivered by two technicians - for a patient who exhibits harmful behavior - completed in an environment that is customized to the patient's behavior.	97148	Per 15 minutes	Client, 2 technicians. QHP must be "on-site" ¹ but is not required to be physically present.
						Each additional technician present, each 15 minutes <i>(List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</i>	+97149	Per 15 minutes	Additional technician(s) <i>(no more than 5 total)</i> QHP must be "on-site" but is not required to be physically present.
Non-Face-to-Face Services by QHP ²	Treatment planning by QHP	Not separately reportable in 2019 code set.				Adaptive behavior non-face-to-face services, personally performed by a physician or other QHP, each 15 minutes, with any of the following elements, when performed: - review and analysis of data and session notes on patient treatment targets, - clinical decision making regarding the need to modify treatment targets, goals, or protocols and/or making those modifications, - clinical decision making regarding the need for additional assessment and developing or modifying assessment protocols, - developing discharge or transition plan, - training on or reviewing treatment targets and/or revised assessment or treatment protocols with technician(s).	97180	Per 15 minutes <i>(may be reported once per week by summing the time spent on non-face-to-face services during the preceding seven days, e.g., Sunday to Saturday)</i>	QHP always present; technician(s) may or may not be present.
	Direction of technicians by QHP w/out client present	If QHP is directing the technician without the client present, this was not separately reportable in the 2019 code set. If the QHP is directing a technician or caregiver with the client present, report using the 97155.							

¹The QHP is required to be on site and immediately available to join the session during the delivery of all harmful behavior assessment and treatment services (97148, 97149, 97159, 97160). Where medically necessary and clinically appropriate, that requirement may be met by telehealth, i.e., the QHP participating in the session remotely. Even if the QHP deems remote delivery clinically appropriate, payer policies, laws, and regulations vary, so providers must check the policies of each payer and the laws and regulations in each jurisdiction in which they provide services to determine whether telehealth is allowed

²QHP = Qualified Healthcare Professional: Licensed Behavior Analyst, Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst, Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst, or other credentialed professional whose scope of practice, training, and competence includes applied behavior analysis.

2027 Adaptive Behavior Assessment and Treatment Code Conversion Table

	General description	2019 Category I / III CPT® codes for adaptive behavior services				2027 Category I CPT® codes for adaptive behavior services			
		Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By	Descriptor	Code	Time/Units	Attended By
Treatment Codes	Direct treatment by technician	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 minutes	Client, technician <i>(QHP may substitute for technician)</i>	Adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician, face-to-face with one patient, each 15 minutes	97153	Per 15 minutes	Client, technician
	Direct treatment of harmful behavior in customized settings	Adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, each 15 minutes of technicians’ time face-to-face with a patient, requiring the following components: - administered by the physician or other qualified healthcare professional who is on site; - 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 minutes	Client, 2 or more technicians, QHP on-site ³ <i>(QHP may substitute for technician)</i>	Adaptive behavior treatment of harmful behavior, each 15 minutes of technician time with a patient, requiring the following components: - delivered by two technicians, - for a patient who exhibits harmful behavior, - conducted in an environment that is customized to the patient’s behavior	97159	Per 15 minutes	Client, 2 technicians. QHP must be “on-site” but is not required to be physically present.
						Each additional technician present, each 15 minutes <i>(List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)</i>	+97160	Per 15 minutes	Additional technician(s) <i>(no more than 5 total)</i> QHP must be “on-site” but is not required to be physically present.
	Direct treatment by QHP	Previously reported with 97155				Adaptive behavior treatment with analysis, administered by a physician or other QHP, face-to-face with 1 patient, each 15 minutes	97173	Per 15 minutes	Client, QHP
	Direction of Technician by QHP	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 minutes	Client, QHP; may include technician	Adaptive behavior direction of technician with analysis by a physician or other qualified health care professional, face-to-face with a patient, each 15 minutes	97155	Per 15 minutes	Clients, technician, QHP
Family Treatment Codes	Family guidance by QHP	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 minutes	Caregiver(s), with or without the client present, QHP	Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance with analysis, administered by a physician or other QHP (with or without the patient present), including discussing protocols and treatment targets and/ or training the caregiver(s) to implement assessment or treatment protocols with the patient, face-to-face with caregiver(s) for 1 patient, each 15 minutes	97156	Per 15 minutes	Caregiver(s), with or without the client present, QHP
	Multi-family guidance by QHP	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 minutes	Sets of caregivers, QHP	Multiple-family group adaptive behavior treatment guidance with analysis, administered by a physician or other QHP (without the patient present), face-to-face with multiple sets of caregivers for multiple patients, each 15 minutes	97157	Per 15 minutes	Sets of caregivers, QHP
Group Treatment Codes	Group by technician	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 minutes	Clients, technician	Group adaptive behavior treatment by protocol, administered by technician, face-to-face with two or more patients, each 15 minutes	97154	Per 15 minutes	Clients, technician
	Group by QHP	Group adaptive behavior treatment with protocol modification, administered by physician or other qualified healthcare professional, face-to-face with multiple patients, each 15 minutes	97158	Per 15 minutes	Clients, QHP	Group adaptive behavior treatment with analysis, administered by a physician or other QHP, face-to-face with multiple patients, each 15 minutes	97158	Per 15 minutes	Clients, QHP

*** Modifiers commonly used with these codes include HM (high-school education), HN (four-year degree), HO (master’s degree), HP(PhD).

³“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. If the QHP is present, their time is separately reported using 97155.