



PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2027 CPT CODES FOR ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR SERVICES:

SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROVIDERS

October 2026

This document has been created by the ABA Coding Coalition (representatives of the organizations shown above and CPT consultants), which developed the code change application that resulted in the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT Editorial Panel issuing revised and new CPT codes for reporting applied behavior analysis (ABA) services to health plans. The new codes go into effect January 1, 2027. The following suggestions are offered to help ABA providers prepare for implementation of the new codes and to foster communication between providers and payers.

General Strategies

- **Be well and fully informed.** Obtain accurate and complete information about the new CPT codes -- preferably from firsthand, reliable sources – and study them carefully.

Recommended resources include:

- The CPT 2027 book, available from the [AMA Store](#)
- The 2027 ABA [Coding Coalition crosswalk table](#) distributed by the Coalition in September
- The [supplemental coding guidance article](#) with clinical examples distributed by the Coalition in October
- Additional resources that are being developed by the Coalition for dissemination over the next few months:
 - A model coverage policy
 - Updated website FAQs
 - Updates to 2027 Medically Unlikely Edits and Procedure to Procedure edits for the revised code set.
- **Attend trainings.** Look for opportunities to participate in online and in-person trainings and discussions held by members of the Coalition.
- **Review your contracts.** Know the policies and requirements regarding medical necessity, coverage of ABA services, modification of contracts, claims documentation, and the like.
- **Calculate the value of your services and be prepared to negotiate rates.** Consider all components of each service (overhead, practice expenses, technology, liability insurance, etc.). For each code that involves the work of more than one person, include the services of all personnel and negotiate rates by code rather than using a single flat rate. Use the resources provided by the Coalition organizations and other publicly available (validated) information, but take care to do the “homework” of determining the rates that are necessary for your agency independently of other providers so as to comply with antitrust laws.

- **Engage with payers as soon as possible.** Don't assume payers will contact you. Send each of them a letter to alert them about the new codes. Use your own letter or the ABA Coding Coalition template. Include the crosswalk table, supplemental guidance article, and other resources from the Coalition, as well as information about your practice (the services you provide, numbers and types of clients served, staffing, etc.). Information you need from each payer includes:
 - The date the new codes will be listed in the payer's claims system and whether that differs from the effective January 1 date;
 - The payer's crosswalk from each current code to its successor, and if it differs from the ABA Coding Coalition crosswalk table (www.abacodes.org);
 - The contracted rate for each new code;
 - Whether authorizations issued under the current codes will be converted automatically or whether new authorization requests will be required and, if so, the submission window;
 - How claims will be handled for dates of service spanning the transition and whether there is a grace period during which the current codes will continue to adjudicate;
 - The date providers will be notified of the changes.
- **Based on answers the payer's responses, consider developing suggested rate conversions** from the codes in your current contract(s) to the new code set and providing them to the payer.
- **The template letter below is available for provider use.** Complete the letter by applying your organization's logo and agency-specific details in the highlighted sections. Once complete, remove the highlights and send the template letter to your payers to get these conversations underway!

[Insert your company logo in a header at the top]

Date: XXX

Title and address: XXXX

Via email: XXXXX

Re: 2027 Adaptive Behavior Services CPT Code Implementation and Potential Contract Modification

Dear XXXX:

I am writing on behalf of [insert organization's name] [Provide background on your organization, including locations, size, types of clients served, services provided, types of providers you employ, and the date you became contracted with the payer you are contacting, etc.].

Our organization is writing to draw your attention to the new Category I CPT® Codes for adaptive behavior services that were approved by the CPT Editorial Panel following its September 2025 meeting, going into effect January 1, 2027.

Significant changes have been made to the CPT® code set for adaptive behavior assessment and treatment services. These changes include the introduction of six new Category I codes, revisions to the existing codes (97151-97158), and the elevation of two previous Category III codes (0362T and 0373T) to Category I status. The new codes and code revisions were developed to address limitations identified through implementation of the 2019 code set and to provide greater specificity and clarity regarding the reporting of adaptive behavior assessment and treatment services to individuals for whom they are medically necessary.

Additional information regarding the 2027 adaptive behavior services CPT® codes, including the code set, crosswalk, and supplemental guidance regarding the appropriate reporting and implementation of the codes, is available on the ABA Coding Coalition website at: <https://abacodes.org/codes/>.

To promote consistent claims administration and compliance with HIPAA transaction and code set requirements, we respectfully encourage [insert payer name] to prepare for timely implementation of the updated and new codes. As a reminder, the new codes are included in the AMA 2027 CPT Code book and are effective on January 1, 2027. Early clarification of both coding implementation and corresponding policy or contractual changes will help providers prepare for the transition. We have the following questions regarding your implementation of the code conversion:

[Select and customize the questions below based on your practice and your contracting terms. Delete questions that are not applicable and add payer-specific questions as appropriate.]

With the new CPT code set for adaptive behavior services taking effect January 1, 2027, we want to make sure we are aligned well ahead of your configuration deadline. Could you confirm the following in writing by [date]?

1. The date the new codes will be listed in your claims system and whether that differs from the effective January 1 date;

2. Your crosswalk from each current code to its successor and if it differs from the [ABA Coding Coalition crosswalk](http://www.abacodes.org) (www.abacodes.org);
3. The contracted rate for each new code;
4. Whether authorizations issued under the current codes will be converted automatically or whether new authorization requests will be required and, if so, the submission window;
5. How claims will be handled for dates of service spanning the transition and whether there is a grace period during which the current codes will continue to adjudicate;
6. The date providers will be notified of the changes.

If an amendment to our agreement is required to give effect to the new codes, please let me know what your process and timeline are, so we can start as soon as possible. To the extent modification of our current contract is necessary to incorporate the new CPT codes, we respectfully request those changes to be complete in advance of the January 1, 2027, effective date.

Early communication regarding your organization's implementation plans will help support a smooth transition to the revised code set for all parties and minimize the risk of any service disruptions.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this information and for providing clarification regarding your implementation plans. We look forward to working with you to implement the necessary changes. Should you have any questions or require additional information, **please contact [insert contact]**. We would also be more than happy to schedule a time to discuss this via phone or in person if you prefer.

Sincerely,

[signature block]