

# MEDICAL POLICY



MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF FAMILY AND COUPLES
Policy Number	3.01.05
Category	Behavioral Health
Effective Date	10/18/01
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Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.</li> <li>• If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan product) or a Medicaid product covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</li> <li>• If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</li> </ul>

## POLICY STATEMENT

Family and/or couple therapy is considered **medically appropriate** when used to treat the identified patient's mental illness or substance use disorder. This includes:

- I. Individual session(s) with a family member(s) of the identified patient to aid in the treatment of the patient.
- II. Goal specific, time limited family therapy when the identified patient's mental illness or substance use disorder is severely disrupting interpersonal family dynamics.
- III. Multiple-family psychoeducation groups for families of patients with schizophrenia (e.g., McFarlane Group), or Maudsley Group for adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis.
- IV. The identified patient must have a diagnosis of mental illness or substance use disorder as specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (DSM-5).

*Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #3.01.08 regarding Group Therapy for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.*

## POLICY GUIDELINES

Concurrent individual treatment of more than the identified patient in a family, by the same practitioner, will not be covered without supporting clinical documentation demonstrating that the benefits of concurrent treatment outweigh the risks generally associated with concurrent treatment.

Exception: Individuals with an Axis I DSM-5 diagnosis who are seen by a psychiatrist for psychotropic medication(s).

## DESCRIPTION

Family and couples therapy is a service provided for individuals seeking treatment with a licensed mental health care practitioner, when this is the most effective and efficient treatment for the identified patient's mental illness. Family and couple treatment is generally conducted with the patient(s) and family present during the same session, although there are occasions where it is beneficial to the patient for the family members or the significant others to meet individually with the mental health practitioner to address specific issues. Examples of situations when individual session(s) with a family member(s) are beneficial include:

- I. treatment planning,
- II. safety planning in case of suicidal or self-harming behavior, and
- III. person-centered diagnostic education for family.

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**CODES**

- Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.
- **CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.**
- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

**CPT Codes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
90846	Family psychotherapy (without patient present)
90847	Family psychotherapy (conjoint psychotherapy) (with patient present)
90849	Multiple-family group psychotherapy
90832	Psychotherapy, 30 minutes
90833	30-minute psychotherapy add on code to be used with appropriate outpatient E/M code
90834	Psychotherapy, 45 minutes
90836	45- minute psychotherapy add on code to be used with appropriate outpatient E/M code
90837	Psychotherapy, 60 minutes
90838	60-minute psychotherapy add on code to be used with appropriate outpatient E/M code
90785	Interactive complexity, add on code for 90832-90838

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**HCPCS Codes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
No specific codes	

**Revenue Codes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
916	Psychiatric services, family therapy
916H	Family therapy, 20-25 minutes

**ICD10 Codes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
F02.80-F02.81	Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere without behavioral disturbance (code range)
F03.90-F03.91	Unspecified dementia (code range)
F04	Amnesic disorder due to known physiological condition
F05	Delirium due to known physiological condition
F06.0-F06.8	Other mental disorders due to physiological condition
F07	Personality change due to known physiological condition
F07.81	Postconcussional syndrome
F07.89	Other personality and behavioral disorders due to known physiological condition
F07.9	Unspecified personality and behavioral disorder due to known physiological condition

*Proprietary Information of Univera Healthcare*

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Code	Description
F09	Unspecified personality and behavioral disorder due to known physiological condition
F20.0-F20.9	Schizophrenia (code range)
F21-F25.9	Schizoaffective disorder (code range)
F28	Other psychotic disorder not due to a substance or known physiological condition
F29	Unspecified psychosis not due to a substance or known physiological condition
F30.10-F30.9	Manic episode (code range)
F31.0-F31.9	Bipolar disorder (code range)
F32.0-F33.9	Major depressive disorder (code range)
F34.0-F39	Mood (affective disorder) (code range)
F40.00-F48.9	Anxiety disorder (code range)
F50.00-F50.9	Eating disorders (code range)
F51.01-F51.9	Sleep disorders (code range)
F52.0-F52.9	Sexual dysfunction (code range)
F53	Puerperal psychosis
F54	Psychological and behavioral factors associated with disorders or diseases classified elsewhere
F59	Unspecified behavioral syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors
F60.0-F69	Disorders of adult personality and behavior (code range)
F70-F79	Intellectual disabilities (code range)
F80.0-F89	Developmental disorders (code range)
F90.0-F98	Behavioral and emotional disorders (code range)
F99	Mental disorder, not otherwise specified
R37	Sexual dysfunction, unspecified
R45.2	Unhappiness
R45.5	Hostility
R45.6	Violent behavior
R45.7	State of emotional shock and stress, unspecified
R45.82	Worries
R48.0	Dyslexia and alexia
Z87.890	Personal history of sex reassignment

**KEY WORDS**

Couples therapy, family therapy

**CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS**

There is currently a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for psychiatry and psychology services. Please refer to the following LCD website for Medicare Members: [https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=33632&ContrId=298&ver=42&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=298\\*1&Cntrctr=298&name=National+Government+Services%2c+Inc.+\(13201%2c+A+and+B+and+HHH+MAC%2c+J++K\)&s=All&DocType=Active&bc=AggAAAQAAAA&](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=33632&ContrId=298&ver=42&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=298*1&Cntrctr=298&name=National+Government+Services%2c+Inc.+(13201%2c+A+and+B+and+HHH+MAC%2c+J++K)&s=All&DocType=Active&bc=AggAAAQAAAA&)