Attention – Action Required!
New Evaluation Codes for Physical and Occupational Therapists

In v.11.0.8.0, currently available as a beta update, Compulink is supporting the evaluation changes by adding additional fields to allow therapists to easily capture the data required to justify the appropriate level of service for each evaluation. Once the exam is documented, Compulink’s Billing Engine will use the criteria outlined below to suggest the appropriate level of service for the evaluation. An evaluation override field will also be included on the Codes tab to allow therapists to easily specify the appropriate level of service based on their clinical judgment.

Summary of Evaluation Code Changes
Beginning with dates of service on or after January 1, 2017, the previous CPT codes for Evaluation and Re-Evaluation for both PTs (97001, 97002) and OTs (97003, 97004) will be removed so that new codes can be used in their place. Evaluations will now be stratified across 3 levels meant to describe the complexity of the patient more so than the breadth of documentation:

- **Low Complexity**
  - PT - 97161
  - OT - 97165
- **Moderate Complexity**
  - PT - 97162
  - OT - 97166
- **High Complexity**
  - PT - 97163
  - OT - 97167

Re-Evaluations will continue to be represented by a single code for both PT (97164) and OT (97168).

For **Physical Therapists**, the following factors must be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of evaluation.

- **History / Personal Factors** *that impact the plan of care*
  - Sex, age, coping style, social background, education, profession, past and current experience, overall behavior pattern, character, and other factors that influence how disability is experienced by the individual
  - Comorbidities
- **Exam of**
  - **Body Systems**
  - **Musculoskeletal**
    - i.e. Gross symmetry, gross range of motion, gross strength, height and weight
  - **Neuromuscular**
    - i.e. balance, gait, locomotion, transfers, transitions, motor function
  - **Cardiovascular**
    - i.e. heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, edema
  - **Integumentary**
    - i.e. pliability, scar formation, skin color, skin integrity
  - **Body Structures**
• Structural or anatomical parts of the body, such as organs, limbs, and their components, classified according to body system
  • Body Regions defined as head, neck, back, lower extremities, upper extremities, and trunk
    ○ Activity Limitations and/or Participation Restrictions (as defined by the ICF)
    ○ Learning and Applying Knowledge, General Tasks and Demands, Communication, Changing and Maintaining Body Position, Carrying Moving and Handling Objects, Walking and Moving, Self-Care, Domestic Life, Interpersonal Interactions and Relationships, Work/School, Community/Recreation

• Clinical Presentation
  ○ Characteristics (Physiological responses)
    • Pain, swelling, BP, Pulse, Neurological signs, ect...
  ○ These can be...
    • Stable and uncomplicated
      ▪ Example: Pain that was worse at onset but has gotten better steadily over time as expected. Not worried about fluctuating physiological responses
    • Evolving clinical presentation with changing characteristics
      ▪ Example: Low back pain with pain down the leg
      ▪ Symptoms are evolving, not getting better, possibly getting worse
    • Evolving clinical presentation with unstable and unpredictable characteristics
      ▪ Example: Orthostethic Hypertension... every time the patient gets up, BP drops and presents a safety risk

• Clinical Decision Making
  ○ MUST BE assessed using a standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome

The following matrix outlines the criteria that must be satisfied to reach a certain complexity. To reach any level of complexity each category (History, Exam, Clinical Decision Making) must be satisfied, otherwise, the next lowest level of complexity must be selected until all categories are satisfied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Clinical Presentation</th>
<th>Clinical Decision Making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Complexity</td>
<td>97161</td>
<td>No personal factors and/or comorbidities</td>
<td>1-2 elements</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>Low Complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Complexity</td>
<td>97162</td>
<td>1-2 personal factors and/or comorbidities</td>
<td>3+ elements</td>
<td>Evolving</td>
<td>Moderate Complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Complexity</td>
<td>97163</td>
<td>3 or more personal factors and/or comorbidities</td>
<td>4+ elements</td>
<td>Unstable / Unpredictable</td>
<td>High Complexity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Counting each category (History, Exam, Clinical Decision Making)
  ○ History
    • In order to count a personal factor or comorbidity, IT MUST impact the plan of care
  ○ Exam
    • There is still some lack in clarity on how to count Exam elements.
    • In order to take a somewhat conservative view on the rule
      ▪ each Body Region will be counted once for each Body System
      ▪ each Activity Limitation / Participation Restriction will be counted once per ICF Domain
  ○ Clinical Presentation
    • Must be documented as either Stable, Evolving, or Unstable
  ○ Clinical Decision Making
    • MUST include a standardized patient assessment instrument and/or a measurable assessment of functional outcome
    • Based on a new Clinical Decision Making field
For **Occupational Therapists**, the following factors must be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of evaluation.

- **History / Occupational Profile**
  - Review of medical history
  - Occupational Profile includes the following factors
    - Client’s current concerns relative to engaging in activities and occupations
    - What occupations does the patient feel success and what barriers are affecting that success
    - Aspects of current environment that support or inhibit engagement in desired occupations
  - Occupational history
  - Patients patterns of engagement
  - Patients goals

- **Assessment of Performance Deficits**
  - Physical Skills
    - Body structure or function (i.e. balance, mobility, strength, endurance, fine or gross motor coordination, sensation, dexterity)
  - Cognitive Skills
    - Ability to attend, perceive, think, understand, problem solve, mentally sequence, learn, and remember
  - Psychosocial Skills
    - Interpersonal interactions, habits, routines and behaviors, active use coping strategies, and environmental adaptations

- **Comorbidities**
- **Modification of Tasks**
- **Clinical Decision Making**

The following matrix outlines the criteria that must be satisfied to reach a certain complexity. To reach any level of complexity each category (History, Assessment, Comorbidities, Modification of Tasks, Clinical Decision Making) must be satisfied, otherwise, the next lowest level of complexity must be selected until all categories are satisfied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>History / Occupational Profile</th>
<th>Assessment of Performance Deficits</th>
<th>Comorbidities</th>
<th>Modification of Tasks</th>
<th>Clinical Decision Making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Complexity</td>
<td>97165</td>
<td>Brief History</td>
<td>1-3 Deficits</td>
<td>No comorbidities</td>
<td>No Modification</td>
<td>Low Complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Complexity</td>
<td>97166</td>
<td>Expanded History</td>
<td>3-5 Deficits</td>
<td>May present with comorbidities</td>
<td>Minimal to Moderate Modification</td>
<td>Moderate Complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Complexity</td>
<td>97167</td>
<td>Extensive History</td>
<td>5 or more Deficits</td>
<td>Presents with comorbidities</td>
<td>Significant Modification</td>
<td>High Complexity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Counting each category (History, Assessment, Comorbidities, Modification, Clinical Decision Making)
  - History
    - Currently, there is little direction provided defining brief, expanded, and extensive
    - Until further clarification is documented by AOTA or CMS, the following criteria will be used for suggesting coding level
      - Brief: 1-2 elements
      - Expanded: 3-4 elements, including a review of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial history (documented today or reviewed today)
      - Extensive: 5 or more elements, including a review of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial history (documented today or reviewed today)
  - Assessment
    - No restriction on counting elements is presented, so current performance deficits will be counted towards the highest level available
  - Comorbidities
Instructions for Updating the Service Table in Your Advantage Software

Navigate to the Service Table (Utilities->Look-Up Tables->Financial Tables->Services).

Use the “Delete” command to remove the following highlighted codes:

**If there is a chance that you may have to re-bill charges for Date of Service PRIOR TO 01/01/2017, you will still need to submit the old Evaluation Codes. You may leave the Retired Codes in the Services table for as long as needed. Stress to your billing staff that they need to be careful not to post the Retired Codes for charges with Date of Service AFTER 01/01/2017.**

Retired Evaluation Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Post Code</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT Evaluation</td>
<td>97001</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT Re-Evaluation</td>
<td>97002</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT Evaluation</td>
<td>97003</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT Re-Evaluation</td>
<td>97004</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the “Add” command to add the following Descriptions, Post Codes and Categories:

**Please be aware that it is possible to allow the new Evaluation codes trigger the old Evaluation codes (97001-97004) for any Insurance companies that are not immediately updating to the new CPT codes (i.e. possibly Work Comp, MVA, or in some states, Medicaid) by changing the Ins. Code for the Service table column associated with that insurance company.**

New Evaluation Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Post Code</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT Low Complexity Eval</td>
<td>97161</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT Moderate Complexity Eval</td>
<td>97162</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT High Complexity Eval</td>
<td>97163</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT Re-Evaluation</td>
<td>97164</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT Low Complexity Eval</td>
<td>97165</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT Moderate Complexity Eval</td>
<td>97166</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT High Complexity Eval</td>
<td>97167</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT Re-Evaluation</td>
<td>97168</td>
<td>EV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Need Help?

- Submit your support request on our web site
- Email to Support@CompulinkAdvantage.com
- Call us at (800) 888-8075
- Support is available Monday-Friday 4:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Support is now available for emergency issues such as down systems on SATURDAYS from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.