

Getting Reimbursed

How to successfully
bill with CPT codes

Presented by
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President, APA Practice Organization
& American Psychological Association
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Today's webinar will cover the following:

- Answer questions members submitted regarding their challenges when billing with certain CPT codes.
- Legal and regulatory expert Alan Nessman, JD, will address members questions regarding challenges with some private insurers.
- **Provide an important update on changes coming to psychotherapy and neuropsychotherapy codes.**

There will be an opportunity for a Q&A with Dr. Puente and attorney Alan Nessman during this webinar– please use your chat box to submit questions at any time during the presentation.

This webinar is being recorded and will be emailed within 24 to 48 hours post webinar to all participants and those who registered but could not attend.

Antonio E. Puente, PhD, is president of the American Psychological Association and the APA Practice Organization. Dr. Puente maintains a private practice focused on clinical neuropsychology. He is an authority on coding and billing for psychological services. Between 1993 and 2008, he was APA's representative to the American Medical Association's (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) panel. Dr. Puente served two terms on the AMA Editorial Panel of the CPT panel. He was also on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee.

Disclaimer:



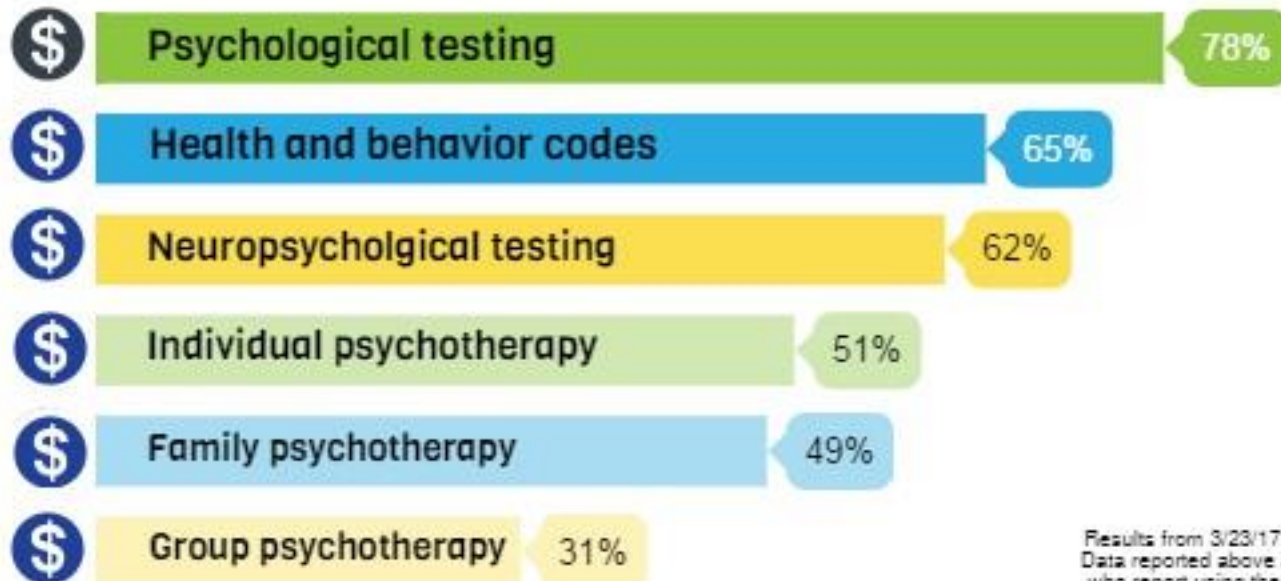
Alan C. Nessman, JD, is the Senior Special Counsel in the Legal and Regulatory Affairs (LRA) office of the APA Practice Organization. He has worked on commercial insurance reimbursement since he joined LRA in 2000. He has also been involved in commercial insurance billing issues, particularly psychologists' use of the psychotherapy code 90837. His other key areas include parity, antitrust, HIPAA and patient privacy, and innovative practice models. Prior to APA he spent 15 years as a law firm litigator.



Important to note:

- **APA Practice Organization Disclaimer:** Legal issues are complex and highly fact-specific and state-specific. They require legal expertise that cannot be provided in this forum. Moreover, APA & Practice Organization attorneys do not, and cannot, provide legal advice to our membership or state associations. The information in this presentation does not constitute and should not be relied upon as legal advice, and should not be used as a substitute for obtaining personal legal advice and consultation prior to making decisions.
- **Antonio E. Puente, PhD Disclaimer:** The information contained in this extended presentation is not intended to reflect the policy of AMA, APA, CMS (Medicare), any division of APA, NAN, NAP, NCPA (or any state psychological association), state Medicaid and/or any private third party. Further, this information is intended to be informative and does not supersede APA or state/provincial licensing boards' ethical guidelines and/or local, state, provincial or national regulations and/or laws. Further, Local Coverage Determination and specific health care contracts supersede the information presented. The information contained herein is meant to provide practitioners, health care institutions (e.g., insurance companies) and policy makers involved in psychological services with the latest information available to the author regarding the issues addressed. This is a living document that can and will be revised as additional information becomes available. The ultimate responsibility of the validity, utility and application of the information contained herein lies with the individual and/or institution using this information and not with any supporting organization and/or the author of this presentation. Suggestions or changes should be directly addressed to the author. Note that whenever possible, references are provided. Finally, note that the CPT system is copyrighted and the information contained should be treated as such. CPT information is provided as a source of education to the readers of the materials contained.

We asked if you had trouble with reimbursement codes; this is what you said:



Results from 3/23/17 Quick Poll, 178 respondents. Data reported above are only for those respondents who report using the particular code so number of respondents varied per CPT code.

Common Coding Questions 90837 & 90834



- How do I decide between 90837 or 90834?
- Under what circumstances can 90837 be used for private insurance and Medicare?

Insurers & Medicare

- Are most insurance companies reimbursing differently for 90837 vs 90834?
- How can you challenge insurance companies that don't pay a differential?

Health & Behavior Codes

- How to bill for same day consults and brief acute sessions at primary care offices.
- Which behavioral health codes to use for smoking cessation.
- Many insurers seem to not want to recognize and/or reimburse for health & behavior codes. How do we navigate this?

CHANGES ARE COMING TO CODES

- Which codes are up for change?
- American Medical Association CPT/RUC process for changing codes.



How codes are valued

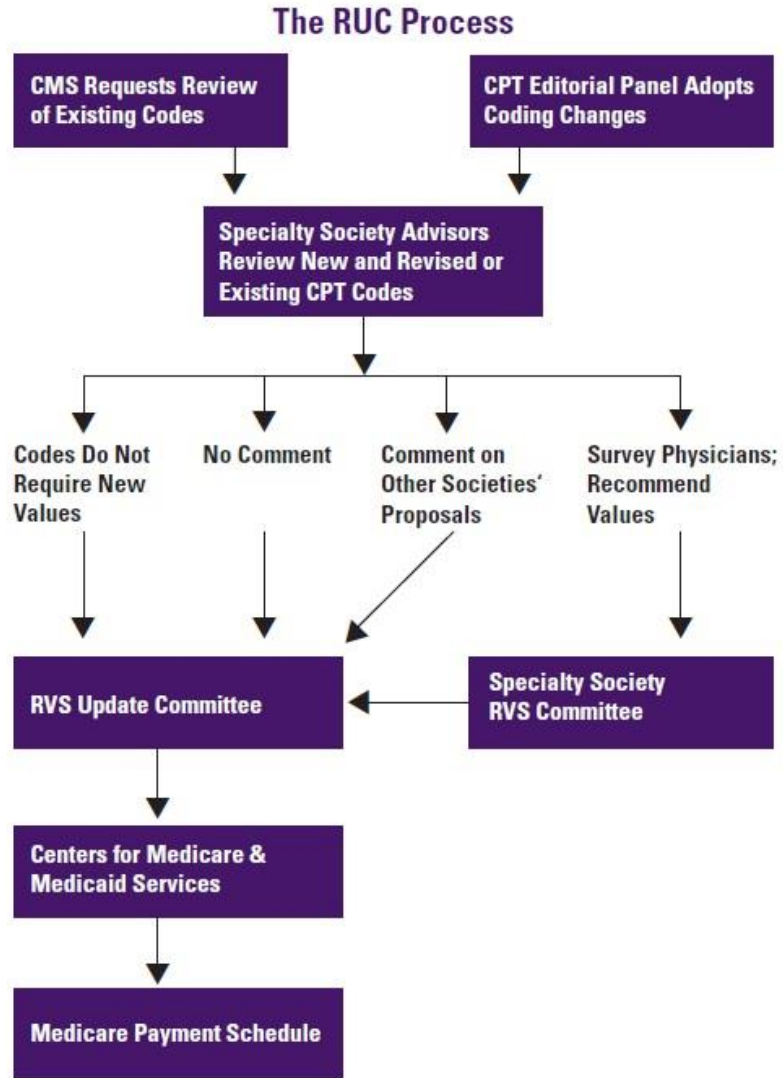


Chart credit: AMA RVS Update Process 2017

https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/default/files/media-browser/public/rbrvs/ruc-update-booklet_o.pdf

RUC Survey . . .

- A tool used by AMA to collect objective data on health care services provided by psychologists, physicians and other health care professionals.
- Data from RUC surveys used by AMA to assign a specific relative value unit for the CPT code assigned to each service.
- RUC survey helps determine relative value units (RVU) for new procedures and their assigned codes.
- This RVU is multiplied by a set dollar figure (called the conversion factor) to determine the price at which Medicare reimburses practitioners for the procedure.

What happens after a RUC Survey?

- Once the surveys are completed, the APA Practice Organization reviews the data and develops recommendations related to the work and practice (business) expenses (i.e. testing software fees or computer purchases) involved with performing the new procedures.
- APA Practice Organization representatives present recommendations at an AMA/RUC Meeting.
- The AMA/RUC determines a value for the new CPT codes and submits confidential work and practice expense recommendations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- CMS makes the final decisions and publishes their approved values for the codes in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule, through the Federal Register.
- Final CMS-approved values go into effect yearly.

What else about the RUC survey?

- How survey respondents are selected
- How the survey is completed
- Components of the survey



Learn more ...

Practice Update e-newsletter at APApracticecentral.org

- ✓ Up to Code: Keep current with coding, April 6, 2017
- ✓ Up to Code: Who sets psychologists' payment rates? April 20, 2017 issue
- ✓ Up To Code: What's a RUC Survey, May 4, 2017 issue

Common Coding Questions

96101

96111

96116

96118

- Can these codes be used together?
- With 96116 & 96118, cannot use for billing without pre-authorization then limited to 7 hours total. What should the billable time be when using these codes?

Question and Answer Period



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Alan C. Nessman, JD
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Billing or other problems with private or government insurance?

The APA Practice Organization assists members with health insurance and managed care issues involving private and government insurers. The latter includes Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE. Issues include billing, contracting, restrictions on care, and parity & HIPAA compliance. Approaches range from collaborative resolutions with enlightened companies and agencies -- to complaints to regulators, lobbying federal and state legislatures, and lawsuits.

Contact the APA Practice Organization at practice@apa.org.

Additional resources

- **AMA RUC & CPT Process**

<https://www.ama-assn.org/rvs-update-committee-ruc>

- **APA Practice Organization:** www.apapracticecentral.org

- Click on Practice Update newsletter on homepage for CPT articles
- Reimbursement section of website

- **Psychology Coding - CPT and Psychological Service Billing:**
<http://psychologycoding.com/>

Thank you for attending today's webinar.

A copy of today's recorded webinar will be emailed to all registrants within 24 to 48 hours. In addition, the slides and the recording will be available on the APA Practice Organization website in a few weeks. (www.apapracticecentral.org)

We'd like your feedback on this webinar. Please wait for a short survey before exiting the webinar.

Have a great day!