



Acupuncturists/East Asian Medicine Practitioners

Billing Guidelines

All claims must include both the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]) codes to ensure accurate processing. The diagnosis must match the diagnosis of the referring physician.

When billing for acupuncture services, please use:

- **CPT 97810** *Acupuncture, one or more needles; without electrical stimulation, initial 15 minutes of personal one on one contact with patient*
- **CPT 97811** *Acupuncture, one or more needles; without electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one on one contact with the patient, with reinsertion of needle(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)*
- **CPT 97813** *Acupuncture, one or more needles; with electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one on one contact with patient*
- **CPT 97814** *Acupuncture, one or more needles; with electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one on one contact with patient, with reinsertion of needle(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)*

CPT 97810 and **97813** will not be allowed when billed together for the same visit.

Only one unit of service for **CPT 97810** and **97813** is allowed per date of service, up to the benefit maximum. **CPT 97811** and **97814** must be explicitly denoted in the patient's medical record to be allowed.

8 Minute Rule for Timed Codes – One Service

For services billed in 15-minute units, count the minutes of skilled treatment provided. Only direct, face-to-face time with the patient is considered for timed codes.

- 7 minutes or less of a single service is not billable.
- 8 minutes or more of a single service is billable as 1 unit or an additional unit if the prior units were each furnished for a full one.

15 minutes:

- 8 – 22 minutes = 1 unit
- 23 – 37 minutes = 2 units
- 38 – 52 minutes = 3 units

Note: Evaluation and management (E&M) codes cannot be used as a substitute for acupuncture treatments.

Chiropractic-only rehabilitation modalities and procedures

Rehabilitative medicine that is within the scope of license of a provider and provided independent of acupuncture services may be allowed in accordance with contract language and limitations specific to the member's rehabilitation benefit.

Acupuncture for the treatment of chemical dependency

A participating acupuncturist/east Asian medicine practitioner will be reimbursed for acupuncture services provided for chemical dependency treatment when the member's plan includes a benefit for both acupuncture services and chemical dependency treatment.

Acupuncture treatment for chemical dependency is covered in the following instances:

- When the member's plan covers acupuncture
- Diagnosis supports chemical dependency benefits
- When smoking cessation is covered under some plans
- If required by the member's plan, a referral by the member's primary care physician or by the contracted behavioral health department organization has been filed with Regence