

# ABA PROVIDER ALERT

## Telehealth Services in Response to COVID-19

**March 17, 2020**

In order to address the need for additional precaution at this time, the State of Maryland has determined which ABA services may be requested and/or reimbursed using the GT modifier indicating the service was rendered via telehealth.

As of March 12, 2020, current open authorizations for ABA services that include units for parent training (97156) can be billed using the GT modifier to indicate the service was rendered via HIPAA compliant technology. The CPT code 97156 is reimbursable by the following provider types: BCaBA, BCBA, BCBA-D and licensed psychologist.

Additionally, current open authorizations for ABA services that include units for direction of a technician OR remote direction of a technician (97155 or 97155-GT) can be billed using the GT modifier for up to 100% of supervision sessions to indicate the service was rendered via HIPAA compliant technology. The CPT code 97155/97155-GT is reimbursable by the following provider types: BCBA, BCBA-D and licensed psychologist.

If a provider determines that it is clinically appropriate and beneficial for a Maryland Medicaid participant to receive ABA services including CPT codes 97151, 97152, 97153, 97154, 97157, 97158, 0362T or 0373T via telehealth, a provider must complete the following to **add** this service to a current authorization:

*Submit a telehealth addendum requesting GT modifier to be added to any of the following currently authorized CPT code(s) [97151, 97152, 97153, 97154, 97157, 97158, 0362T or 0373T] or requesting to add GT modifier with a CPT code(s) that is not presently authorized:*

1. Please send a secure email request to [ombhaba@optum.com](mailto:ombhaba@optum.com) or fax to 844-882-9917
2. Required e-mail subject line or fax header: **ABA Telehealth Addendum - Participant Initials**
3. Summary must include the following:

**ABA Telehealth Addendum Request**

For the following CPT codes [97151, 97152, 97153, 97154, 97157, 97158, 0362T or 0373T]

Requested <b>start date</b> for telehealth service:	
Requested <b>end date</b> for telehealth service:	
Participant Full Name:	
Participant DOB:	
Participant Medicaid ID #:	
Provider Group Name:	
Provider Group Address:	
Provider Group NPI #:	
<p>CPT code:                      Total number of units:                      Who will provide the service:                      How will the service be utilized (i.e., what treatment objectives will be targeted?, how will data be collected?, how ABA strategies will be applied? etc.):</p> <p>Proposed schedule of service:                      Is the participant's parent/caregiver in agreement with receiving this service via telehealth?                      Has the provider secured HIPAA compliant technology to render this service via telehealth?  <i>(Repeat this box for any additional CPT codes being requested)</i></p>	

*Due to the unique nature of these requests, we ask that you **refrain from submitting telehealth addendums via Incedo Provider Portal** at this time. The Optum team will communicate the update to your organization via secure email.*

Alternatively, if your provider organization is submitting an **initial or concurrent treatment request** and would like to request the GT modifier be included in any one of the following CPT code(s) [97151, 97152, 97153, 97154, 97157, 97158, 0362T or 0373T] being requested, please include the following **at the end of the individual's treatment plan** when submitting via the Incedo Provider Portal:

Initial/Concurrent ABA Telehealth Request	
For the following CPT codes [97151, 97152, 97153, 97154, 97157, 97158, 0362T or 0373T]	
Requested <b>start date</b> for telehealth service:	
Requested <b>end date</b> for telehealth service:	
CPT code: Total number of units: Who will provide the service: How will the service be utilized (i.e., what treatment objectives will be targeted? How will data be collected? How ABA strategies will be applied? etc.):  Proposed schedule of service: Is the participant's parent/caregiver in agreement with receiving this service via telehealth? Has the provider secured HIPAA compliant technology to render this service via telehealth? <i>(Repeat this box for any additional CPT codes being requested)</i>	

Please note, in the event the GT modifier does not appear as an available service when submitting a request via the Incedo Provider Portal, please ensure the above chart is completed and included in the treatment plan to ensure the Optum Maryland ABA team addresses your request accordingly.

Providers are reminded that any telehealth service provided to an ABA participant **must** be done via remote access technology defined as HIPAA compliant technological methods to provide auditory and visual connection to a participant in his/her home.  
<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/10/10.09.28.01.htm>

For additional questions, please feel free to reach us at:  
[MarylandProviderRelations@Optum.com](mailto:MarylandProviderRelations@Optum.com).