

Payment Policies for Healthcare Services

Provided to Injured Workers and Crime Victims

Chapter 25: Physical Medicine Services

Effective July 1, 2022

Link: Look for possible updates and corrections to these payment policies on L&I's website.



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Definitions

The following terms are utilized in this chapter and are defined as follows:

Body regions: For osteopathic manipulation treatment (OMT) services, body regions are defined as:

- Head,
- Cervical,
- Thoracic,
- Lumbar,
- Sacral,
- Pelvic,
- Rib cage,
- Abdomen and viscera regions,
- Lower and upper extremities.

Bundled codes: Procedure codes that are not separately payable because they are accounted for and included in the payment of other procedure codes and services.

Distant site: The location of the provider who performs telehealth services. This provider is not at the originating site with the worker.

Originating site: The place where the worker is located when receiving telehealth. For the purposes of this policy, the worker may be at home when receiving telehealth.

Student: As part of their clinical training, a student is a person who is enrolled and participating in an accredited educational program to become a physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, or speech language pathologist. Interim permitted students who have already completed their training but aren't yet licensed can also act as students for the purposes of this chapter.

Supervising therapist: a licensed physical or occupational therapist with an active L&I provider number who has entered into a private agreement with a student and their educational institution to provide hands on training, instruction and supervision during the clinical phase of the student's course work. A supervising therapist can only supervise a student within their discipline. They are responsible for all services provided to injured workers by their students. Physical therapist assistants and occupational therapy assistants must not act as supervising therapists.

Student supervision: The supervising therapist can only supervise one student at a time and won't treat another patient while supervising the student. The supervising therapist must maintain line-of-sight and be physically present for the entire session during treatment to provide direct instruction to the student, oversee the work, and adjust the treatment or change other patient-centered tasks while the service is being provided. Services may be single patient (student therapist to patient) or group services (student therapist to a group of patients).

Telehealth: Face-to-face services delivered by a qualified medical provider through a real-time, two-way, audio video connection. These services aren't appropriate without a video connection.

Work conditioning: An intensive, work related, goal oriented conditioning program designed specifically to restore function for work.

Work hardening: An interdisciplinary, individualized, job specific program of activity with the goal of return to work. Work hardening programs use real or simulated work tasks and graded conditioning exercises that are based on the individual's measured tolerances. Work hardening provides a transition between acute care and successful return to work and is designed to improve the biomechanical, neuromuscular, cardiovascular, and psychosocial functioning of the worker.



Link: More information about <u>L&I's work hardening program</u> (including a list of approved work hardening providers, criteria for admission into a work hardening program, and other work hardening program standards) is available on L&I's website.

Modifiers

The following CPT®, HCPCS, and/or local code modifiers apply to this chapter:

-1S (Surgical dressings for home use)

Bill the appropriate HCPCS code for each dressing item using this modifier –1S for each item. Use this modifier to bill for surgical dressing supplies dispensed for home use.

-25 (Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management (E/M) service by the same physician on the day of a procedure)

Payment is made at 100% of the fee schedule level or billed charge, whichever is less.

-52 (Reduced services)

Payment is made at the fee schedule level or billed charge, whichever is less.

-GT (Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)

Used to indicate a telehealth procedure was performed. Documentation to support the service must be submitted. Payment is made at 100% of the fee schedule level or billed charge, whichever is less.

Payment policy: Electrical stimulators (including TENS)

Prior authorization

These HCPCS codes for **electrical stimulator devices for home use or surgical implantation** require prior authorization:

HCPCS code	Brief description	Additional coverage information
E0745	Neuromuscular stimulator for shock	This code is covered for muscle denervation only.
E0747	Electrical osteogenesis stimulator, not spine	_
E0748	Electrical osteogenesis stimulator, spinal	_
E0749	Electrical osteogenesis stimulator, implanted	Authorization for this code is subject to utilization review .
E0760	Osteogenesis ultrasound, stimulator	This code is covered for appendicular skeleton only (not the spine).
E0764	Functional neuromuscular stimulator	_

Services that can be billed

For electrical stimulator devices used in the office setting:

- When it is within the provider's scope of practice, a provider may bill professional services for application of stimulators with the CPT® physical medicine codes.
- Attending providers who aren't board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation must bill local code 1044M, which is limited to six units per claim. See Payment Limits in the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy payment policy for more information, below.

For electrical stimulator devices and supplies for **home use or surgical implantation**, HCPCS code **E0761** (Nonthermal electromagnetic device) is covered.

Services that aren't covered

For **use outside of medically supervised facility settings** (including home use and purchase or rental of durable medical equipment and supplies), the insurer doesn't cover:

- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulators (TENS) units and supplies, or
- Interferential current therapy (IFC) devices, or
- Percutaneous neuromodulation therapy (PNT) devices.

Use of these therapies will continue to be covered during hospitalization and in supervised facility settings.

For **home use or surgical implantation devices and supplies**, these HCPCS codes aren't covered:

- E0731 (Conductive garment for TENS),
- E0740 (Incontinence treatment system),
- E0744 (Neuromuscular stimulator for scoliosis),
- **E0755** (Electronic salivary reflex stimulator),
- E0762 (Transcutaneous electrical joint stimulation device system),
- E0765 (Nerve stimulator for treatment of nausea and vomiting),
- E0769 (Electric wound treatment device, not otherwise classified),
- L8680 (Implantable neurostimulator electrode),
- S8130 (Interferential current stimulator, 2 channel),
- **S8131** (Interferential current stimulator, 4 channel).

For home use or in medically supervised facility settings, CPT® code 64555 (Peripheral nerve neurostimulator) isn't covered.

Treatment of chronic migraine or chronic tension-type headache with trigger point injections or massage therapy isn't a covered benefit.

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Link: The <u>coverage decision for Chronic Migraine or Chronic Tension-type Headache</u> is available online.

Payment limits

These supplies are bundled and not payable separately for office use:

- A4365 (Adhesive remover wipes),
- A4455 (Adhesive remover per ounce),
- A4556 (Electrodes, pair),
- A4557 (Lead wires, pair),
- A4558 (Conductive paste or gel),
- A5120 (Skin barrier wipes box per 50),
- A6250 (Skin seal protect moisturizer).

Additional information: Why the insurer doesn't cover TENS

Based on extensive review of the evidence for use of Electrical Nerve Stimulation (ENS), including TENS, interferential current therapy (IFC), and percutaneous neuromodulation therapy (PNT) as treatment for acute and chronic pain, the State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) determined that ENS is not covered for use outside of medically-supervised facilities. Purchase or rental of TENS, IFC, or PNT equipment is also not covered. For more details, see the <u>HTCC decision paper</u>.

Payment policy: Massage therapy

Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

To qualify for payment, massage therapy services must be performed by:

- A licensed massage therapist, or
- Other covered provider whose scope of practice includes massage techniques.

Prior authorization

Services provided by massage therapists require prior authorization after the 6th visit.



Services that can be billed

Massage therapists must bill CPT® code **97124** for all forms of massage therapy, regardless of the technique used. The insurer won't pay massage therapists for additional codes.

Requirements for billing

Massage therapists must bill CPT® code 97124 for all forms of massage therapy, regardless of the technique used. Massage therapists must also use CPT® code 97124 for evaluations and reevaluations.

Massage therapists must bill their usual and customary fee and document the duration of the massage therapy treatment. Bill the appropriate units based on the length of time the service is rendered, per CPT® code description.

Documentation must support the units of service billed. Document the amount of time spent performing evaluations and reevaluations as well as the treatment.

Progress Reports

Massage therapists are required to submit progress reports following every six treatment visits or after each month, whichever comes first. Documentation must include:

- an outline of the proposed treatment program, and
- the expected restoration goals, and
- the expected length of treatment, and
- substantiation of improvement during the most recent treatment period, such as:
 - signs of treatment progress (e.g. range of motion, sitting and standing tolerance, reduction in medication), *and/or*
 - <u>self-reported functional outcome measures from L&I's recommended scales</u> (such as the patient-specific functional scale).

Failure to submit a progress report after each set of six visits or one month of treatment, whichever comes first, may result in denial of bills and/or revocation of authorization for treatment.



Link: See pages 16-20 in <u>Options for Documenting Functional Improvement in Conservative</u> <u>Care</u> for more examples of appropriate functional scales.

Payment limits

Massage therapy is paid at 75% of the maximum daily rate for PT and OT services.

The daily maximum allowable amount is **\$105.63**.



Link: For more information, see WAC 296-23-250.

Services that aren't covered

These items are bundled into the massage therapy service and aren't separately payable:

- Application of hot or cold packs,
- Anti-friction devices,
- Lubricants (for example, oils, lotions, emollients).

Massage therapy isn't a covered benefit for the treatment of chronic migraine or chronic tensiontype headaches.



Link: The <u>coverage decision for Chronic Migraine or Chronic Tension-type Headache</u> is available online.

Payment policy: Osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT)

Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

Only osteopathic physicians may bill for OMT services.

Requirements for billing

OMT includes pre and post service work (for example, cursory history and palpatory examination). The E/M service may be caused or prompted by the same diagnosis as the OMT service. A separate diagnosis isn't required for payment of an E/M service in addition to OMT services on the same day.

An E/M office visit service may be billed in conjunction with OMT **only when all** of the following conditions are met:

- When the E/M service constitutes a significant separately identifiable service that exceeds the usual pre and post service work included with OMT, and
- The worker's record contains documentation supporting the level of E/M service billed, and
- The E/M service is billed using modifier –25. Without modifier –25, the insurer won't pay for E/M codes billed on the same day as OMT.

Payment limits

The insurer may reduce payments or process recoupments when E/M services aren't documented sufficiently to support the level, type and extent of service billed. The CPT® book describes the requirements that must be present for each level of service.

For OMT services, only one CPT® code is payable per treatment. This is because CPT® codes for body regions ascend in value to accommodate the additional body regions involved.

Example: If three body regions were manipulated, one unit of the correct CPT® code would be payable.

(See definition of **Body regions** in Definitions at the beginning of this chapter.)

Services that aren't covered

CPT® code 97140 isn't covered for osteopathic physicians.

Payment policy: Functional capacity evaluation

Prior authorization

Requires prior authorization by the claim manager.

Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

To qualify for payment, a functional capacity evaluation must be performed by:

- Physicians who are board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, or
- Physical and occupational therapists.

Services that can be billed

Standard Functional Capacity Evaluation

1045M is used to bill the Standard Functional Capacity Evaluation. When billing for this service:

- Units of service must be billed. 1 hour of direct time = 1 unit of service.
- The fee for 3-6 units of service is \$829.05.
- A maximum of six units may be billed.
- Each provider must bill independently for their time.
- Time accumulates regardless of the number of days. Evaluations will involve at least 3 hours of face-to-face time. The fee for 1 unit of service is **\$276.35** and the fee for 2 units of service is **\$552.70**.

Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluation

1098M is used to bill the Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluation. Use this code when billing more than 6 hours of time beyond a Standard Functional Capacity Evaluation or for follow up testing. When billing for this service:

- Units of service must be billed. 1 hour of direct time = 1 unit of service.
- The fee for each 1 unit of service is **\$138.68**.
- A maximum of six units may be billed.
- Each provider must bill independently for their time.
- Time accumulates regardless of the number of days.

Requirements for billing

Eligible providers must bill their usual and customary fee for Standard Functional Capacity Evaluations and Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations.

When the service is performed by multiple providers, each provider must bill for the amount of direct 1:1 time spent performing the evaluation using their individual provider account number.

These services include testing, a summary of findings, and full evaluation report. All summary reports must be submitted within 10 days of when the service was performed and full evaluation reports within 30 days.

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Note: Ensure all documentation is submitted before billing or the bill may be denied.

Examples of billing options for multiple provider evaluations

Scenario: The Occupational Therapist (OT) performed 3.2 hours of direct time and the Physical Therapist (PT) performed 0.8 hours of direct time for a Standard FCE.

OT:	Bill 3 units of 1045M		
PT:	Bill 1 unit of 1045M		
Total units billed: 4			
Maximum fee of \$829.05			

Documentation must include:

1) A summary of findings- State fund, in-state claims complete the Summary Report Form <u>F245-434-000</u>. Out of state claims complete a summary of findings equivalent to <u>F245-434-000</u>; and

2) Full evaluation report demonstrating:

- L&I's minimum evaluation elements were met; and
- Duration of the evaluation. Each provider must separately document the amount of direct 1:1 time spent performing the service; *and*
- Signature and date of all evaluators.

For follow up testing, include:

- Date of service, worker name, claim number and a summary of test findings, and
- List of all tests that were performed, and
- Results of all testing performed, and
- Duration of the service. Each provider must separately document the amount of direct 1:1 time spent performing the service, *and*
- Signature and date of all evaluators.



Note: Documentation must clearly note who performed each service and how much time each individual provider spent providing the direct 1:1 evaluation. Include this information on both the summary of findings and full evaluation report.

Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluation

1) For use when standard evaluation length is more than 6 hours.

Examples:

- Evaluating multiple jobs with opposite physical demands
- Performing a whole body and upper extremity focused evaluation
- Symptomatic neurological disease impacting testing tolerance

AND/OR

- 2) For use when follow up testing is indicated after completion of a Standard FCE.
 - The Attending Provider and/or Vocational Provider determined additional testing is needed to facilitate return to work decisions.

Not Covered:

- Additional time to perform missed or forgotten testing
- Updates to an incomplete/conflicting report

Payment limits

Standard and Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations may only be billed once per worker every 30 days.

If the FCE is performed by multiple providers, the maximum fee applies once per worker regardless of how many providers and/or provider types performed the evaluation.

If the worker has multiple claims, the maximum fee for the FCE applies once per worker regardless of the number of claims a worker may have.

Standard and Supplemental Functional Capacity Evaluations may be provided over multiple days. If this occurs, the bill must span the dates of service to reflect the actual dates in which the evaluation was performed. For example, if the evaluation began on January 1st and was completed on January 3rd, the bill will reflect the "From Date of Service" as January 1st and the "To Date of Service" as January 3rd.

Multiple Claims: Split Billing: Refer to the General Provider Billing Manual F245-432-000.

Payment policy: Physical medicine CPT® codes billing guidance

Timed codes

Some physical medicine services (such as ultrasound and therapeutic exercises) are billed based on the number of minutes spent performing the service. These services are referred to as "timed services" and are billed using "timed codes."

Timed codes can be identified idn CPT® by the code description. The definition will include words such as "each 15 minutes."

Providers must document in the daily medical record (chart note and flow sheet, if used):

- The amount of time spent for each time based service performed, and
- The specific interventions or techniques performed, including:
 - Frequency and intensity (if appropriate), and
 - Intended purpose of each intervention or technique.

Simply documenting the procedure code and the amount of time the service is performed is insufficient and may result in denial of the bill or recoupment of payment. All documentation must be submitted to support your billing (for example, flow sheets, chart notes, and reports).



Note: Documenting a range of time (for example, 8-22 minutes) for a timed service isn't acceptable. Providers must document the actual amount of minutes spent performing the service.

The number of units you can bill is:

- Determined by the time spent performing each "timed service," and
- Constrained by the total minutes spent performing these services on a given day.

To obtain the number of units of timed services that can be billed, add together the minutes spent performing each individual timed service and reference the table below.

If the combined duration of all time based services is at least	and less than	Then, when billing, report:
8 minutes	23 minutes	1 unit
23 minutes	38 minutes	2 units
38 minutes	53 minutes	3 units
53 minutes	68 minutes	4 units
68 minutes	83 minutes	5 units
83 minutes	98 minutes	6 units
98 minutes	113 minutes	7 units
113 minutes	128 minutes	8 units

How to use this table

The above schedule of times doesn't imply that any of the first eight minutes should be excluded from the total count. The total time of active treatment counted includes all direct treatment time. Use the table above to determine the maximum number of units that can be billed for the date of service. Begin with applying the maximum number of units to the service performed for the longest amount of time and continue assigning units to each timed service, based on length of service performed, until the maximum number of billable units has been reached. Pre and post delivery services (for example, warmup and cool down) aren't counted in determining the treatment time. See <u>Determining what time counts towards timed codes</u>. Detailed examples can be found below.

Examples of how to document and bill timed codes

The following examples show how the required elements of interventions can be documented and billed. These examples aren't reflective of a complete medical record for the patient's visit. The other elements of reporting (SOAPER) **also must be documented**.

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time	
Attended E-Stim and Ultrasound performed simultaneously	5mA right forearmIncrease joint1.5 W/cm2 ; 100% rightmobility		8 minutes	
Whirlpool	Heat bath to right forearm and hand	Facilitate movement; reduce inflammation	8 minutes	
Therapeutic exercise	Active assisted ROM to right wrist; flexion/extension; 15 reps x 2 sets	Increase motion and strength for gripping	10 minutes	
Total treatment time = 26 minutes				

Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = **18 minutes**

At 18 total minutes of timed services, a maximum of **1 unit** of timed services can be billed. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- 97110 (Therapeutic exercise) x 1 unit, and
- 97022 (Whirlpool) x 1 unit.



Note: Untimed services are billed separately. In addition, please see the <u>Prohibited Pairs</u> <u>section</u> of the policy for more information as to which outpatient therapy CPT® codes cannot be billed if provided to one or more patients **during the same time period**.

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time
Therapeutic exercise	Left leg straight leg raises x 4 directions; 3 lbs. each direction. 10 reps x 2 sets	Strength and endurance training for lifting	20 minutes
Neuromuscular reeducation	One leg stance, 45 seconds left; 110 seconds on right using balance board x 2 sets each	Normalize balance for reaching overhead	15 minutes
Cold pack	Applied to left knee	Decrease edema	10 minutes
		Total treatment time =	45 minutes

Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = **35 minutes**

At 35 total minutes of timed services, a maximum of **2 units** of timed services can be billed. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- 97110 (Therapeutic exercise) x 1 unit, and
- 97112 (Neuromuscular reeducation) x 1 unit.



Note: Cold packs are considered bundled.

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention	Purpose	Treatment time
Manual therapy	Soft tissue mobilization to medial knee - right	Mobilization	12 minutes
Therapeutic exercises	Prone hip extension 10 reps x 2 sets; hamstring stretch 3 reps x 2 sets; right single leg stance 3 sets of 5 for 15 second hold	Increase strength and range of motion	25 minutes
Cold pack	Applied to right knee	Decrease edema	10 minutes
Total treatment time = 47 minutes			

Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = **37 minutes**

At 37 total minutes of timed services, a maximum of **2 units** of timed services can be billed. Begin with applying the maximum number of units to the service performed for the longest time. Therapeutic exercise was performed for 25 minutes, which equates to 2 units of timed service. Because no additional units of timed services are allowed, manual therapy is not billable. Correct billing for the services documented is:

• 97110 (Therapeutic exercise) x 2 units

Note: Cold packs are considered bundled.

Procedural intervention	Specific intervention Purpose		Treatment time
Neuromuscular re-education	Squats on Airex Balance pad 10 reps x 2 sets; tandem balance on Bosu Ball 2 sets 30 seconds each; single stance on Airex Balance pad 2 sets x 5Normalize balance for reaching overhead8		8 minutes
Manual therapy	anual therapy Mobilization		12 minutes
Therapeutic exercises	Hamstring curls 10 reps x 2 sets; short arc quads 3 sets of 5 for 5 second hold; straight leg raise 3 sets of 5 for 15 second hold	Increase strength and range of motion	25 minutes
Cold pack	Applied to right knee	Decrease edema	10 minutes
Total treatment time = 55 minutes			

Total timed intervention (treatment time spent performing timed services) = 45 minutes

At 45 minutes of timed services, a maximum of **3 units** of timed services can billed. Begin with applying the maximum number of units to the service performed for the longest time. Therapeutic exercises was performed for 25 minutes, which equates to 2 units of timed service. The balance of billable units is 1 unit. Since more time was spent performing manual therapy, assign the last unit of service to manual therapy. Because no additional units of timed services are allowed, neuromuscular re-education is not billable. Correct billing for the services documented is:

- 97110 (Therapeutic exercise) x 2 units
- 97140 (Manual therapy) x 1 unit

Note: Cold packs are considered bundled.

Prohibited pairs: Which CPT® codes can't be billed together

A therapist can't bill any of the following pairs of CPT® codes for outpatient therapy services provided simultaneously to one or more patients **for the same time period**:

- Any two codes for "therapeutic procedures" requiring direct, one-on-one patient contact, or
- Any two codes for modalities requiring "constant attendance" and direct, one-on-one patient contact, *or*
- Any two codes requiring either constant attendance or direct, one-on-one patient contact, as described above (for example, any CPT® codes for a therapeutic procedure with any attended modality CPT® code), *or*
- Any code for therapeutic procedures requiring direct, one-on-one patient contact with the group therapy code (for example, CPT® code 97150 with CPT® code 97112), or
- Any code for modalities requiring constant attendance with the group therapy code (for example, CPT® code 97150 with CPT® code 97035), or
- An untimed evaluation or reevaluation code with any other timed or untimed codes, including constant attendance modalities, therapeutic procedures, and group therapy.

Determining what time counts towards timed codes

Providers report the code for the time actually spent in the delivery of the modality requiring constant attendance and therapy services:

- Pre and post delivery services (for example, warmup and cool down services) aren't counted in determining the treatment service time. In other words, the time counted as "intra-service care" begins when the therapist is working directly with the patient to deliver treatment services.
- The patient should already be in the treatment area (for example, on the treatment table or mat or in the gym) and prepared to begin treatment.
- The time counted is the time the patient is treated.
- The time the patient spends not being treated because of the need for toileting or resting shouldn't be billed. In addition, the time spent waiting to use a piece of equipment or for other treatment to begin isn't considered treatment time.

Regardless of the number of units billed, the daily maximum fee for services won't be exceeded.



Link: More information about <u>L&I's PT, OT, and massage therapy policies</u> is available online.

Payment policy: Physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT)

Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

PT services

PT services must be ordered by the worker's attending doctor, nurse practitioner, or the physician's assistant for the attending doctor. The services must be provided by a:

- Licensed physical therapist, or
- Physical therapist assistant serving under a licensed physical therapist's direction, or
- Athletic trainer serving under a licensed physical therapist's direction.

For details about students performing PT services, see the <u>Therapy student and therapy</u> assistant payment policy.

Link: For more information, see WAC 296-23-220.

OT services

OT services must be ordered by the worker's attending doctor, nurse practitioner, or the physician's assistant for the attending doctor. The services must be provided by a:

- Licensed occupational therapist, or
- Occupational therapy assistant serving under a licensed occupational therapist's direction.

For details about students performing OT services, see the <u>Therapy student and therapy</u> assistant payment policy.



Link: For more information, see WAC 296-23-230.

Physical medicine services

Physical medicine services may be provided by:

• Medical or osteopathic physicians who are board qualified or board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatry), *or*

 Attending doctors who aren't board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation. For non-board certified/qualified providers, special payment policies apply. (See Requirements for billing and Payment limits, below.)

Link: For more information, see WAC 296-21-290.

Who won't be paid for physical medicine services

- Exercise physiologists, or
- Kinesiologists, or
- Physical or occupational therapist aides, or
- Gym Supervisors

Services that can be billed

Physical and occupational therapists must use the appropriate CPT® and HCPCS codes **97161-97168**, **95992**, and **97010-97799**. These therapists must bill the appropriate covered HCPCS codes for miscellaneous materials and supplies. Some of these CPT® and HCPCS codes aren't covered or are bundled.

If more than one patient is treated at the same time, use CPT® code 97150. For PT and OT evaluations and reevaluations, bill using CPT® codes 97161 through 97168.

To report the evaluation by the physician or therapist to establish a plan of care, use CPT® codes 97161 through 97163 or 97165 through 97167.

To revise the plan of care by reporting the evaluation of a patient who has been under a plan of care established by the physician or therapist, use CPT® codes 97164 and 97168. CPT® codes 97164 and 97168 have no limit on how often they can be billed.

For information on billing phone calls or team conferences, see <u>Chapter 10: Evaluation and</u> <u>Management Services</u>.



Link: For information on Surgical dressings dispensed for home use, see <u>Chapter 28: Supplies</u>, <u>Materials</u>, and <u>Bundled Services</u>.

For billing requirements for prosthetic and orthotic devices, see <u>Chapter 9: Durable</u> <u>Medical Equipment (DME)</u>.

Other Physical medicine services

Board qualified and board certified physiatrists bill for services using:

• CPT® codes 97010 through 97799.

Non-board certified/qualified physical medicine attending providers may perform physical medicine modalities and procedures described in CPT® codes 97010-97750 if their scopes of practice and training permit it, but for these services must bill local code 1044M. The description for local code 1044M is "Physical medicine modality(ies) and/or procedure(s) by attending doctor who isn't board qualified or certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation."

Services that aren't covered

Physical medicine CPT® codes 97033 and 97169-97172 aren't covered.

Low level laser therapy **S8948** isn't a covered benefit. For more information, please see <u>L&I's</u> coverage decision for low level laser therapy.

Cryotherapy devices with or without compression for home use aren't covered benefits. These devices used in a clinical setting are considered bundled into existing physical medicine services. For more information, please review <u>L&I's coverage decision for Cryotherapy Devices</u> With or Without Compression.

Non-vasopneumatic compression devices without a cryotherapy component are not a covered benefit. For more information, please review <u>L&I's coverage decision for Non-vasopneumatic</u> <u>Devices without a Cryotherapy Component</u>.

Requirements for billing

Progress reports are due following 12 treatment visits or every one month, whichever comes first. PT and OTs treating workers covered by state-fund must use the Physical Medicine Progress Report form F245-453-000 and submit this to the insurer and the attending provider. Progress reports must include functional outcome measures.

Providers can use the <u>Documenting Functional Improvement resource</u> to help prepare these progress reports.

Link: For more information, see WAC 296-23-220 and WAC 296-23-230

Payment limits

Physical medicine services

Non-board certified/qualified physical medicine providers won't be paid for CPT® codes **97010-97799**.

Local code **1044M** is limited to six units per claim. After six units, the patient must be referred to a licensed physical or occupational therapist or physiatrist except when the attending doctor practices in a remote location where no licensed physical or occupational therapist or physiatrists is available.

Bundled items or services

- Activity supplies used in work hardening, such as leather and wood,
- Application of hot or cold packs (this includes all forms of cryotherapy with or without compression. **97016** may not be used to bill for these services),
- Electrodes and gel,
- Exercise balls,
- Ice packs, ice caps, and ice collars,
- Thera-tape,
- Wound dressing materials used during an office visit and/or PT treatment.



Link: For complete lists of bundled codes, see <u>Chapter 28: Supplies, Materials and Bundled</u> <u>Services</u>.

Daily maximum for services

The daily maximum allowable fee for PT and OT services is **\$140.84**.

If PT, OT, and massage therapy services are provided on the same day, the daily maximum applies once for each provider type. See <u>Massage Therapy Payment Limits</u> above for the daily maximum fee that applies to massage therapists.

When performed for the same claim for the same date of service, the daily maximum applies to CPT® codes **97161-97168**, **95992**, and **97010-97799**.

If the worker receives PT or OT services for two separate claims with different allowed conditions on the same date, the daily maximum will apply for each claim.

The daily maximum allowable fee doesn't apply to:

- Physicians board certified in Physical Medicine, or
- Functional capacity evaluations (FCEs), or

- Work hardening services, or
- Work evaluations, or
- Job modification/prejob accommodation consultation services.

Links: For more information, see WAC 296-23-220 and WAC 296-23-230.

Unrelated conditions

If part of the visit is for a condition unrelated to an accepted claim and part is for the accepted condition:

- Therapists must appropriately bill L&I only for the portion of the visit related to the accepted claim.
- Treatment rendered for a condition unrelated to an accepted L&I claim may be billed to a secondary insurer, if appropriate.

Only send chart notes related to the accepted L&I claim to the insurer, since the employer doesn't have the right to see information about an unrelated condition.

Untimed Services

Supervised modalities and therapeutic procedures that don't list a specific time increment in their description are limited to one unit per day. Refer to CPT® and HCPCS to determine whether a service is timed or untimed.

Providers must document the actual service provided including frequency and intensity (if appropriate), and the intended purpose for each service. Simply documenting the procedure code is insufficient and may result in denial of the bill or recoupment of payment. All documentation **must be submitted** to support your billing (for example, flow sheets, chart notes, and reports).

Work conditioning: Guidelines

- Frequency: At least three times per week and no more than 5 times per week.
- **Duration**: No more than 8 weeks for one set. One set equals up to 20 visits.
 - An additional 10 visits may be approved after review of progress.
- Plan of Care: Goals are related to:
 - Increasing physical capacities, and
 - Return to work function, and
 - Establishing a home program allowing the worker to progress and/or maintain function after discharge.
- **Documentation**: Besides standard documentation, the plan of care and progress report must include return to work capacities, which may include lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling, sitting, standing, and walking tolerances.
- **Treatment**: May be provided by a single therapy discipline (PT or OT) or combination of both (PT and OT).
 - PT and OT visits accumulate separately and both are allowed on the same date of service.
 - Billing reflects active treatment. Examples include CPT® 97110, 97112, 97530, 97535, and 97537.
- **Billing**: Work conditioning programs are reimbursed as outpatient PT and OT under the daily fee cap.

Payment policy: Powered traction therapy

Services that can be billed

Powered traction devices are covered as a physical medicine modality.

Payment limits

The insurer won't pay any additional cost when powered devices are used.

Additional information: Why the insurer won't pay additional cost when powered devices are used

Published literature hasn't substantially shown that powered devices are more effective than other forms of traction, other conservative treatments or surgery. This policy applies to all FDA approved powered traction devices. Click <u>here</u> for more information.

Payment policy: Telehealth for physical medicine services

General information

The insurer reimburses telehealth at parity with in-person appointments.

The insurer prefers that PT and OT services be provided in person. Telehealth may be used only when hands-on services aren't required.

The provider is expected to make arrangements for in-person evaluation and intervention for certain circumstances. <u>See below for additional information</u>.

Telehealth services must occur either from a medical or vocational **origination site** or the worker's home. The selection of a provider is the worker's choice by law. Services may not be delivered from either the employer's worksite or any location owned or controlled by the employer that isn't operated by a Medical Provider Network practitioner.

The provider performing **telehealth** services may have to be licensed in the state where the worker is receiving **telehealth** services.

Services that must be performed in person

In-person evaluation is required when:

- The provider has determined the worker is not a candidate for **telehealth** either generally or for a specific service, *or*
- The worker does not want to participate via telehealth, or
- The worker has an emergent issue such as re-injury, new injury, or worsening status.

System requirements

Telehealth services and teleconsultations require an interactive telecommunication system, consisting of special two-way audio and video equipment that permits real time consultation between the patient and provider. Providers are responsible for ensuring complete confidentiality and privacy of the worker is protected at all times.

Prior authorization

The prior authorization requirements listed in this chapter apply regardless of how the service is rendered to the worker, either in person or via **telehealth**.

Services that are covered

Services that don't require a hands-on component are covered when performed via **telehealth**. Students, speech, physical and occupational therapists may conduct services via **telehealth**.

The insurer will pay an **originating site** facility fee to a provider when they allow the worker to use their telecommunications equipment for a **telehealth** service with a provider at another location. To bill for the **originating site** facility fee, use HCPCS code **Q3014**.

Q3014 is payable to the originating site provider when no other billable service occurs.

Q3014 billing examples

Example 1: A worker, whose originating site is their attending provider's office, attends an in-person Evaluation and Management (E/M) appointment. The originating site provider documents all necessary information as part of this visit. Then, the worker requests the use of the provider's space to participate in a telehealth consultation with a distant site provider who is located in another office. The originating site provider or their assistant arranges a secure and private space for the worker to participate in the consultation. The provider at the originating site location with the worker bills the insurer Q3014 for allowing this worker the use of their space for a visit with a distant site provider, but no other code is payable for this event to the originating site provider. The originating provider is required to separately document the activity as part of their bill for Q3014, and they submit separate documentation and a bill for the E/M visit that occurred earlier, noting the two distinct events in each documentation. The distant site consulting provider bills a consultation code, but they can't bill Q3014.

Originating site is	Attending provider's office		
Originating site provider bills	Q3014		
Distant site provider bills	Consultation code	Distant site provider documents	Consultation

Example 2: A worker, whose originating site is their physician's office, attends an appointment for a telehealth consultation with a distant site provider. The originating site provider or their assistant arranges a secure and private space for the worker to participate in the consultation. The originating site provider bills the insurer Q3014 for allowing this worker the use of their space for a visit with a distant site provider. The originating site provider is required to separately document the activity as part of their bill for Q3014. This provider can only bill Q3014, and the distant site consultant bills for their services provided. This distant site provider can't bill Q3014.

Originating site is	Attending provider's office		
Originating site provider bills	Q3014 Originating site provider Originating site visit Q3014		
Distant site provider bills	Consultation code	Distant site provider documents	Consultation

Store and Forward

G2250 is covered for patient-to-provider store and forward of images or video recordings, including interpretation and follow up when it isn't part of a visit. Follow up must occur within 24 business hours of receiving the images or video recordings, and follow up may occur by phone, **telehealth**, or in-person, and isn't separately payable. **G2250** isn't covered if the patient provides the image or video recording as follow-up from a visit in the prior 7 days, nor if the provider's evaluation of the image or video recording leads to a visit within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment. Providers are required to document their interpretation of the image or video recording. Chart notes that don't state the interpretation by the provider are insufficient.

Services that aren't covered

Telephonic visits don't replace video two-way communication and can't be billed using nontelephonic E/M services codes. Case management services may be delivered telephonically (audio only) and are detailed in <u>Chapter 10: Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services</u>.

Telehealth procedures

Telehealth procedures and services that aren't covered include:

- Work hardening,
- Functional Capacity Evaluations
- The services listed under "Services that must be performed in-person",
- Services that require hands-on and/or attended treatment of a patient,

- Purchase, rental, installation, or maintenance of telecommunication equipment or systems,
- Home health monitoring, and
- Telehealth transmission, per minute (HCPCS code T1014).

Telehealth locations

Q3014 isn't covered when:

- The originating site provider performs another service during a telehealth visit, or
- The worker is at home, or
- Billed by the distant site provider, or
- The provider uses audio only.

The worker won't be reimbursed for using home as an **originating site**, or for any other **telehealth** related services.

Q3014 billing examples

Example 1: A worker, whose originating site is their home, attends a telehealth appointment with their provider. **Q3014** isn't payable to the provider in this example. No reimbursement is payable to the worker for using their home or their equipment for this visit.

Originating site is	Worker's home		
Originating site provider bills	n/a Originating site provider documents		n/a
Distant site provider bills	No billable services	Distant site provider documents	n/a

Example 2: A worker, whose originating site is their attending provider's office, attends a telehealth consultation. The distant site consulting provider cannot bill **Q3014** because the worker is in a different location than the distant site provider. However, the originating site provider whose space the worker is utilizing may bill **Q3014**, so long as they provide appropriate documentation of the service provided. No other service is payable to the originating site provider.

Originating site is	Attending provider's office			
Originating site provider bills	Q3014	Q3014Originating site provider documentsOriginating site visit Q3014		
Distant site provider bills	Consultation code	Distant site provider documents	Consultation	

Requirements for billing

For services delivered via telehealth, bill the applicable codes as if delivering care in person.

Distant site providers must use place of service **-02** to denote the **telehealth** visit when the worker isn't located in their home. **Distant site** providers must use place of service **-10** to denote the **telehealth** visit when the worker is located in their home.

Bill using the **-GT** modifier to indicate telehealth.

Documentation requirements

For the purposes of this policy, the following must be included in addition to the documentation and coding requirements for services billed, as noted in MARFS:

- A notation of the worker's originating site, and
- Documentation of the worker's consent to participate in **telehealth** services. This must be noted for each **telehealth** visit.

If treatment is to continue via **telehealth**, the evaluation report must include a detailed plan for implementing **telehealth** as agreed upon in a collaborative manner between the provider and worker.

Chart notes must contain documentation that justifies the level, type and extent of services billed.

When Q3014 is the only code billed, documentation is still required to support the service. When a provider bills Q3014 on the same day they render in-person care to a worker, separate documentation is required for both the in-person visit and the Q3014 service. The originating site provider billing Q3014 must submit separate documentation indicating who the distant site provider is and that the service is separate from the in-person visit that occurred on the same day.

Payment limits

The same general limits as those already noted in this chapter_apply, regardless how the service is provided to the worker.

Services conducted by **telehealth** are limited to two hours per day per worker, regardless of the service provided.



Payment policy: Therapy student and therapy assistant student supervision

General information

L&I has adopted a modified version of Medicare Part B's policy on physical and occupational therapy students. L&I considers supervised students an extension of their supervising therapist.

Please refer to the <u>Definitions</u> section at the beginning of this chapter to see the definitions of **student**, **supervising therapist**, and **student supervision**.

Services that can be billed

Supervising therapists will direct all care provided by their students to injured workers and must bill for these services under the supervising therapist's provider number.

All billed services must meet the billing and documentation requirements applicable to the supervising therapist.

Services that aren't covered

Any service provided by a student that is unsupervised (including skilled nursing facilities) aren't payable.

Students can't independently:

- Make clinical judgements;
- Provide evaluations, re-evaluations or assessments;
- Develop, manage or deliver services.

Any service that deviates from the requirements outlined in Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules isn't covered.

Two-way audio/visual direct supervision isn't covered (modifier -FR).

Requirements for billing

All documentation must identify both the supervising therapist and the student and must be signed by both parties.

All services must be billed by the supervising therapist under their provider number and must comply with supervision and documentation requirements for physical medicine services.

Supervising therapist responsibilities

Supervising therapists are responsible for:

- All services provided to injured workers by their students.
- Ensuring that the work students perform does not exceed their education, skills, and abilities, nor the supervising therapist's scope of practice.
- Providing **supervision** to the student regardless of what setting care is being rendered in (clinic, hospital or skilled nursing facility).
- Ensuring that all documentation requirements are met.
- Co-signing all documentation for services rendered to injured workers.
- Keep a copy of the private agreement between them and the student in accordance with <u>WAC 296-20-02005.</u>

Payment limits

Students won't be directly reimbursed for their time or services.

Links: For more information, see WAC 296-20-015.

Payment policy: Work hardening

Prior authorization

Work hardening programs require:

- Prior approval by the worker's attending physician, and
- Prior authorization by the claim manager.

Providing **additional services** during a work hardening program is atypical and must be authorized in advance by the claim manager. Documentation must support the billing of additional services.

Program extensions must be authorized in advance by the claim manager and are based on:

- Documentation of progress, and
- The worker's ability to benefit from the program extension up to two additional weeks.

Who must perform these services to qualify for payment

Only L&I approved work hardening providers will be paid for work hardening services.

Services that can be billed

Work hardening

- For the evaluation, bill using local code **1001M**.
- For treatment, bill using CPT® codes 97545 and 97546.

Services that aren't covered

Billing for less than two hours of service in one day (CPT® code 97545)

Services provided for less than two hours of total program time on any day don't meet the work hardening program standards. Therefore, the services must be billed outside of the work hardening program codes. This should be considered as an absence in determining worker compliance with the program.

Example: The worker arrives for work hardening, but isn't able to participate fully that day.

Requirements for billing

Work hardening

CPT® codes should be billed that appropriately reflect the services provided.

A worker typically starts at four hours per day and gradually increases to 7-8 hours per day by week four.

Billing less than one hour of CPT® code 97546

After the first two hours of service on any day, if less than 38 minutes of service are provided modifier **–52** must be billed. For that increment of time:

- CPT® code 97546 must be billed as a separate line item with modifier -52, and
- The charged amount must be prorated to reflect the reduced level of service.

Example: Worker completes 4 hours and 20 minutes of treatment. Billing for that date of service would include three lines:

Code	Modifier	Charged amount	Units
97545		Usual and customary	1
97546		Usual and customary	2
97546	-52	33% of usual and customary (completed 20 of 60 minutes)	1

Billing for services in multidisciplinary programs

Each provider must bill for the services that they are responsible for each day. Both occupational and physical therapists may bill for the same date of service.

Billing for evaluation and treatment on the same day (multiple disciplines)

If both the OT and the PT need to bill for one hour of evaluation and one hour of treatment on the same date of service, the services must be billed as follows:

If the provider type is	and the service provided is	Then bill as:
от	1 hour of evaluation	1 unit of 1001M
РТ	1 hour of evaluation	1 unit of 1001M
OT (or PT)	1 hour of treatment	1 unit of 97545 with modifier –52 (billed amount proportionate to 1 hour)
PT (or OT)	1 hour of treatment	1 unit of 97546

Examples of billing options for services in multidisciplinary programs

Scenario: The OT is responsible for the work simulation portion of the worker's program, which lasted four hours. On the same day, the worker performed two hours of conditioning/aerobic activity for which the PT is responsible.

The providers could bill for the six hours of services in either one of two ways:

Billing option 1			Billing o	option 2	
PT:	1 unit 97545	2 hours	OT:	1 unit 97545	2 hours
				+	
				2 units 97546	2 additional hours
OT:	4 units 97546	4 hours	PT:	2 units 97546	2 hours
Total hou	rs billed:	6 hours	Total h	ours billed:	6 hours

Payment limits

Work hardening

Work hardening programs are authorized for up to four weeks. Only one unit of **97545** (first two hours) will be paid per day per worker and the total number of hours billed shouldn't exceed the number of hours of direct services provided.

These codes are subject to the following limits:

Code	Description	Unit limit (four week program)	Unit price
1001M	Work hardening evaluation	6 units (1 unit = 1 hour)	\$137.46
97545	Initial two hours per day	20 units per program; Maximum of one unit per day per worker (1 unit = 2 hours)	\$162.44
97546	Each additional hour	70 units per program Add-on, won't be paid as a stand-alone procedure. (1 unit = 1 hour)	\$82.89

Providers may only bill for the time that services are provided in the presence of the client. The payment value of procedure codes **97545** and **97546** takes into consideration that some work occurs outside of the time the client is present (for example, team conference, plan development).

Time spent in treatment conferences isn't covered as a separate procedure regardless of the presence of the patient at the conference. Job coaching and education are provided as part of the work hardening program. These services must be billed using CPT® codes **97545** and **97546**.

Program extensions

Additional units available for extended programs:

Code	Description	Six week program limit
1001M	Work hardening evaluation	no additional units
97545	Initial two hours per day	10 units (20 hours)
97546	Each additional hour	50 units (50 hours)

Additional information: L&I's work hardening program

More information about L&I's work hardening program, including a list of approved work hardening providers, criteria for admission into a work hardening program, and other work hardening program standards is available:

- On the <u>Helping Workers Get Back to Work</u> page,
- By calling the Therapy Services Program at 360-902-4480, or
- By sending an email to <u>Therapy@Lni.wa.gov</u>

Payment policy: Wound care

Prior authorization

Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds

If electrical stimulation for chronic wounds is requested for use on an outpatient basis, prior authorization is required using the following criteria:

- Electrical stimulation will be authorized if the wound hasn't improved following 30 days of standard wound therapy, *and*
- In addition to electrical stimulation, standard wound care must continue.

Note: In order to pay for electrical stimulation beyond 30 days, licensed medical personnel must document improved wound measurements within the past 30 days.

Services that can be billed

Debridement

Therapists must bill CPT® **97597**, **97598**, or **97602** when performing wound debridement that exceeds what is incidental to a therapy (for example, whirlpool).

Wound dressings and supplies sent home with the patient for self-care may be billed with HCPCS codes appended with local modifier -1S.



Link: For more information on billing with local modifier –1S, see the Surgical dressings for home use section (Requirements for billing and Payment limits) of <u>Chapter 28: Supplies</u>, <u>Materials</u>, and <u>Bundled Services</u>.

Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds

Electrical stimulation passes electric currents through a wound to accelerate wound healing. Electrical stimulation is covered for the following chronic wound indications:

- Stage III and IV pressure ulcers,
- Arterial ulcers,
- Diabetic ulcers,
- Venous stasis ulcers.

To bill for electrical stimulation for chronic wounds, use HCPCS code G0281.

Link: More information on <u>electrical stimulation for chronic wounds</u> is available online.

Requirements for billing

Debridement

When performing wound debridement that exceeds what is incidental to a therapy (for example, whirlpool), therapists must bill CPT® 97597, 97598, or 97602.

Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds

In order to pay for electrical stimulation beyond 30 days, licensed medical personnel must document improved wound measurements within the past 30 days.

Payment limits

Debridement

Wound dressings and supplies used in the office are bundled and aren't payable separately.

Einks to related topics

If you're looking for more information about	Then see
Administrative rules (Washington state laws) for physical medicine	Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296- 21-290
Becoming an L&I Provider	Become A Provider on L&I's website
Billing instructions and forms	Chapter 2: Information for All Providers
Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds	Electrical stimulation for chronic wounds
Fee schedules for all healthcare professional services	Fee schedules on L&I's website
Keeping of records	WAC 296-20-02005
Massage therapy administrative rules	WAC 296-23-250
Occupational therapy administrative rules	WAC 296-23-230
Physical Medicine Progress Report Form	Form F245-453-000
Physical therapy administrative rules	WAC 296-23-220
Powered traction devices for intervertebral decompression	Powered traction devices for intervertebral decompression
L&I's general policies and rules for PT , OT , and massage therapy	PT, OT, and massage rules on L&I's website
Payment policies for supplies, materials , and bundled services	Chapter 28: Supplies, Materials, and Bundled Services
TENS coverage decision	State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) published TENS decision
Work hardening program at L&I	Program reviewer: 360-902-4480 Worker hardening rules on L&I's website

If you're looking for more information about	Then see
L&I's coverage decision for Chronic Migraine and Chronic Tension-type Headaches	<u>Chronic migraine headache coverage</u> <u>decision</u>
L&I's coverage decision for low level laser therapy	Low level laser therapy coverage decision
L&I's coverage decision for Cryotherapy Devices with or without Compression	Cryotherapy devices with or without compression coverage decision
L&I's coverage decision for Non- vasopneumatic Devices without a Cryotherapy Component	Non-vasopneumatic devices without cryotherapy component coverage decision

Need more help?

Call L&I's Provider Hotline at 1-800-848-0811 or email PHL@Ini.wa.gov